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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Welcomes UN-Iraqi Agreement

*NC2105201196 Cairo MENA in Arabic*
*1930 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed the agreement reached yesterday between the UN and Iraq regarding the oil for food issue. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid termed the agreement an important step toward easing the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people. He praised the efforts exerted by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to conclude this agreement.

### Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief on Libya, Palestinians, Other Issues

*MM2105131696 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 96 p 4*

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Sawsan 'Abu-Husayn in Banghazi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abu-Husayn] There are rumors of progress in the Lockerbie crisis, in particular the statement by the British Labor MP [member of parliament] casting doubts on the accusations that Libya downed the PanAm airliner. Will you be discussing this issue in Britain?

['Abd-al-Majid] I have indeed heard about this matter, and it was recently discussed with all Arab officials in Libya and Egypt. I shall also raise this issue with the British foreign secretary to clarify the validity of the Libyan legal and political position, and to try to reinforce Libya's and the Arab League's policy in this context, after the doubts cast by the British Labor MP on the accusations against Libya and in view of the lack of evidence.

['Abu-Husayn] Is there any inclination to hold direct contacts between Libya and Britain in view of this position?

['Abd-al-Majid] In Britain I shall be speaking on Libya's behalf, and therefore we can say that there is a Libyan-British dialogue. The Arab League, or its role, should be viewed as a spokesman for Libya rather than just a mediator. We hope there will be direct contact between officials of both countries.

['Abu-Husayn] How can a dialogue between Libya and the three Western sides be held, after U.S. threats against Libya were announced by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League has already condemned these statements. Also, the United States has recently announced that it rules out a strike against the Tarhunah plant, suspected of manufacturing chemical weapons. The Arab League has stressed that the threats would be dealt with politically, because it would be irrational for the Arab League to prepare an army to fight the United States in response to verbal threats. Furthermore, there is an international and Arab willingness to calm the situation down and achieve security, stability, and peace in all tension spots; therefore, these threats are not expected to be carried out.

['Abu-Husayn] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, has announced that he will define his position on the issue of the Palestinians residing in Libya and has urged their return to the land of Palestine. What is the Arab League's position?

['Abd-al-Majid] Everybody supports the Palestinians' right to return, and there will be coordination between the Arab League and Libya to prevent the situation from escalating as it did in the past.

['Abu-Husayn] Are there any new developments with regard to the Turkish-Israeli alliance?

['Abd-al-Majid] I rejected this alliance and announced the Arab League's position and rejection of this military agreement coming at a time when Israel still occupies Arab lands. I told Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ayman Uyman that Turkey is an Islamic and friendly state and that there are no disputes between us, and therefore Turkish-Arab cooperation should be boosted and conflicts avoided.

['Abu-Husayn] You have repeatedly stated that you reject the idea of a Middle Eastern market while welcoming Arab cooperation with the Barcelona Mediterranean conference. Why?

['Abd-al-Majid] First, the Middle Eastern market is an attempt at marginalizing the Arab League's role and wiping out its identity. Consequently, we are calling for inter-Arab economic and political cooperation, and also for relations between the Arab group, as a whole and without exception, and the European Union. I also consider the meeting organized by Libya to discuss the world economic order and Arab development — its reality and future vision — to be vital and extremely important.

It addressed the economic issues on the basis of mutual interests and away from emotions. This reaffirms that there is more scope for Arab agreement and interests than for disagreement. [passage omitted]

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 10 May

*NC1605103096*

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 May edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

**CONTENTS:**

1. Court Postpones Judgment in Libel Case Against Majdi Husayn
2. Report Queries Source of Wealth of Interior Minister's Son
3. Lawyer Explains Islamic Group's Initiative To End Violence
4. Lawyer Claims Ownership of Vast Areas of Lands in Palestine
5. 'Adil Husayn Discusses Psychological Warfare Against Arabs
6. Writer Berates Arab Kings and Presidents

### COURT POSTPONES JUDGMENT IN LIBEL CASE AGAINST MAJDI HUSAYN

A 1,000-word report by Dawud Hasan on pages 1 and 8 says the Bulaq Appeals Court has postponed judgment on a libel case brought by 'Ala' al-Alfi, son of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, against AL-SHA'B's Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn to 28 May. On 31 January 1996, the Bulaq Criminal Court sentenced Majdi Husayn to one year in prison and ordered him to pay a fine of 15,000 Egyptian pounds for libeling 'Ala' al-Alfi. Majdi Husayn, however, was released on a 200-pound bond and he appealed the sentence. According to another 500-word report on page 1, AL-SHA'B on 28 July 1995 published an "unsigned report" stating that the "son of a minister" did not pay his food bill at the Sheraton Hotel's pool in Heliopolis, cursed at the hotel manager, and attacked some hotel employees.

### REPORT QUERIES SOURCE OF WEALTH OF INTERIOR MINISTER'S SON

In a 150-word unattributed report on page 1, the newspaper says that 'Adil al-Alfi, son of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, who has bought six high-rise buildings in Heliopolis for "millions of pounds" is not an engineer or a businessman but an employee of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's diplomatic service. The newspaper urges Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to disclose 'Adil al-Alfi's salary. It also urges Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to say how much pocket money he gives his son or to publicly announce his financial assets. The newspaper concludes that "all these questions are legitimate and the public expects an answer from the interior minister."

### LAWYER EXPLAINS ISLAMIC GROUP'S INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE

In a 100-word report on page 1, Muntasir al-Zayyat, the Islamist lawyer who has been defending Muslim militants in Egyptian courts, says that the "Islamic Group's announcement on its readiness to lay down its arms is not truly an initiative." He adds that the initiative was not issued by any group or organization but was an "appeal" made by Khalid Ibrahim, the main defendant in the Aswan Organization, during his trial. Al-Zayyat says that he seized this appeal and ascribed to it a "political connotation" in the "interest of the country." He adds that no contacts regarding the initiative have been made with the Islamic Group leaders or with the government. He concludes that "he has done his best to leave the appeal as a trust in the society's conscience."

### LAWYER CLAIMS OWNERSHIP OF VAST AREAS OF LANDS IN PALESTINE

According to a 2,000-word report by Khalid Yunus and Ahmad Mahjub on page 4, the al-Jizah Court of First Instance will hold a second hearing of a suit brought by an Egyptian woman named Heidi Faruq 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Zayni against the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, claiming ownership of vast areas of land in several towns in Palestine, including Jerusalem. Al-Zayni, who is an attorney, represents over 2,000 persons from the al-Zayni, 'Abd-al-Akhir, al-Hadidi, 'Abd-al-Majid, and Siraj al-Din clans who claim to be heirs of the al-Mustahfazan sect which ruled Egypt toward the end of the Mameluke rule. The court held a first hearing of the case on 14 March.

Al-Zayni obtained 103 documents dating back hundreds of years from the Egyptian Archive House in al-Qal'ah and also reports by British committees during the British mandate of Palestine—all proving the right of the heirs of the al-Mustahfazan sect to these lands.

### 'ADIL HUSAYN DISCUSSES PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST ARABS

On page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes a 4,000-word article, in which he says that the "confrontation between our Arab-Islamic nation and the U.S.-Zionist alliance" is protracted and ferocious. It is a harsh war in which psychological warfare also plays a part. Citing U.S. books and sources, some of which are named, 'Adil Husayn says "psychological warfare is necessary if the goals are big and complex" and "if the objective is to change the behavioral patterns of whole nations and regions effectively and permanently." Drawing from a book by Harry Rositzke, whom he describes as a "former U.S. intelligence official," 'Adil Husayn says there are "secret operations" such as espionage and coup attempts and "covert operations" which are carried out publicly, but the U.S. government's involvement in them remains unknown, that is "covert." The covert operations are carried out by ordinary individuals who are funded by the U.S. intelligence community, which uses fictitious names and channels. He adds that one of the important tools of psychological warfare and its "covert" operations is the media. He notes that control of the "local media" is important; this is done by recruiting editors and writers in some newspapers, extending financial aid to these newspapers, and sometimes leaking them good news stories. Local governments are usually not aware of these covert operations carried out by the U.S. Administration. 'Adil Husayn says the psychological campaign against the Arab and Islamic nation has increased following the current Islamic awakening and the collapse of the Soviet Bloc. "The Zionists have great experience in the art of psychological warfare" "through their control" of Western media.

Following this analysis of psychological warfare, 'Adil Husayn says the superiority of the "U.S. -Zionist" alliance will not last forever and the balance of power will eventually tilt in favor of the Arabs and Muslims. Sensing these foreboding developments, Israel is in a hurry to "fetter" the largest number of Arab and Islamic countries with "unfair" agreements before it is too late. He says that the "bestial" Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the Turkish threats against Syria and Iran, the continuing embargo against Iraq, the threat to use force against Libya, and the sanctions against Sudan—all these developments show that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance does not have the upper hand, as psychological warfare tries to depict. On the contrary, they prove that the balance of power is changing in our favor. When the peace talks started, the United States and Israel imagined that it was enough to flex their muscles and tighten the siege on two Arab countries to compel other Arab countries to surrender. Now, five years after the start of the negotiations, they have discovered that the circle of rebellion and resistance is expanding and not narrowing and that it is to necessary to use the fiercest tools of war and suppression.

Moving to another subject, 'Adil Husayn says the Palestinian leadership committed a "mortal sin" against Palestine and Jerusalem and against the Arab and Islamic nation when it signed the Oslo accord. He takes Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to task for his constant appeasement of Israel, such as his amendment of the PLO Charter, which "entrenched the Zionist occupation" of Palestine. Referring to the single session of Palestinian-Israeli talks held in Taba on 5 May, 'Adil Husayn says this "orphan" session was designed to show the whole world that the Palestinian side still insists on separate talks. This constitutes a "new stab" at Syria and Lebanon and a contribution to the psychological warfare the "U.S.-Zionist alliance" is waging against the "martyrdom seekers."

Referring to the recent UN Security Council sanctions imposed on Sudan, 'Adil Husayn links them to the current war going on between the "soldiers of God" and the "alliance of the devil."

He says the U.S.-Israeli-British stance at the Security Council indicates that Sudan has become a factor to be reckoned with in strategic calculations. Sudan is depriving the arrogant states, especially the "U.S.-Zionist" alliance, of sleep. "This is something that pleases all believers and patriots. Allah Akbar. Allah Akbar." Although he praises the Egyptian Government for not insisting on stiffer sanctions against Sudan, such as imposing an arms embargo, 'Adil Husayn says this "positive" stance is not all inclusive. All statements and comments in the official media still insist on accusing Sudan of sponsoring and exporting terrorism.

## WRITER BERATES ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS

In a 3,000-word article on page 12, writer Muhammad 'Abbas berates Arab kings and presidents for racing to make peace with Israel, for weakening the "nation of Muhammad", for disgracing Islam, and for enabling "the scum of the earth" to control the fate and destiny of Muslims. He asks the Arab leaders what they have done to prevent "criminal" Israel from killing the Lebanese people. Addressing the Arab rulers, he says "you have become a cat's-paw for implementing the West's designs." "You have turned your nation into a nation of white chickens. No chicken protests the slaughter of another chicken or tries to rebel to save its life." You have satisfied all the desires of the enemies. You have done this in the name of civilization, in the name of democracy, and in the name of the new world order. Why did you rush to Sharm al-Shaykh? Why did you bury your heads in the sand like ostriches over what happened to Lebanon? Why did you obediently respond when Clinton blew his whistle? Why did you run away when Peres used his whip?

The writer says that in the new Middle East, Mubarak can ally himself with Peres, not only against Saddam Husayn but also against [Egyptian Labor Party Secretary General] 'Adil Husayn. King Husayn can ally himself with Baraq, not only against Hafiz al-Asad but also against Layth Shubaylat [head of the Jordanian Engineering Association, now serving a prison term for slandering King Husayn].

The writer appeals to the shaykh of al-Azhar to defend Islam and the Muslims. There is no one else to defend Islam. Everybody has hidden in the "caves of despair" whose exits are guarded by the security forces and the ministers of culture and information. Addressing the shaykh of al-Azhar, he says: "Your nation is defeated and let down." It has been defeated by its enemies and let down by its rulers. It has been cheated by the socialists, deceived by the communists, and crushed by the ruling juntas. In an implicit reference to President Mubarak, he tell the shaykh of al-Azhar: "Go after the pharaohs, they have become tyrants." "Stanch the blood of your nation. Do anything to stop the fissure in the nation."

### Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 14 May

*NC2205103296*

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 May edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

**CONTENTS:**

1. Writer Notes Relaxation of Battle Against Extremism
2. Asyut Governor Says Terrorism Has Been Overcome
3. Candidate for Mufti of Republic Interviewed
4. Muslims Blamed for State of Discord
5. Writer Views Hostile Campaign Against Islam

#### WRITER NOTES RELAXATION OF BATTLE AGAINST EXTREMISM

In his 300-word column "In Truth I Speak" carried on page 1, Chairman of the Board Samir Rajab wonders "why some parties have declined to confront extremism as if the problem is over." He believes that the problem continues and will likely "get worse" if people relax.

Admitting that the security apparatuses and the media are doing their duty, he says that imams, preachers, and men of religion "are standing still". He wonders where the "sensitization campaigns" have gone.

He emphasizes that the new leaders of al-Azhar and the Awqaf Ministry are requested to make more efforts to deal with extremism.

#### ASYUT GOVERNOR SAYS TERRORISM HAS BEEN OVERCOME

Page 3 features a 2,000-word interview with Asyut Governor Muhammad Raja'i al-Tahlawi, by Mamduh al-'Ashri, in which he states that the terrorist phenomenon has been overcome completely in the governorate thanks to the sincere cooperation among all the security and executive bodies and the masses, who are now aware that terrorist incidents are targeting them personally.

Asked about religious activity in the governorate, he replies that the governorate celebrates all religious events and organizes an "Islamic Intellectual Forum" in which university and secondary school students get together during the summer vacation and meet with Muslim scholars who teach them about their religion.

Asked if the terrorist phenomenon has ended in Asyut, he replies that "I can almost assert that terrorism is alien to Asyut and that it has been overcome through sincere cooperation among the security, executive, and popular bodies and the masses". He adds that people's awareness of the risks of terrorism has grown.

Asked how terrorism can be eliminated, he replies that this can be done by sensitizing the people and increasing their awareness of the terrorist phenomenon; establishing positive cooperation among the security, executive, political, and popular bodies; and maintaining security vigilance and developing tight plans.

#### CANDIDATE FOR MUFTI OF REPUBLIC INTERVIEWED

Page 8 features a 2,500-word interview with Dr. Isma'il al-Daftar, professor of Hadith at al-Azhar University and "the most prominent candidate for the position of Mufti of the Republic", by Ibrahim Nasr and Mahmud 'Ashab.

He stresses that a mufti should be very knowledgeable about his religion since a fatwa based on ignorance is more harmful to Islam than debauchery.

Asked whether he prefers strictness in fatwa, he replies that it is preferable to make things easier for people without infringing on the basics of religion.

Dr. Daftar believes it is hard to unite fatwas in one body. He stresses, however, that there should be general accord on the public issues that involve all Muslims and can have a bearing on their destiny. He also stresses the need for coordination among all fatwa committees.

Dr. Daftar was asked to comment on terrorists who kill tourists and claim that an attacker killed in such an operation is a martyr. He replies: "A criminal who commits a full-fledged crime can never be a martyr, since the entry visa a tourist obtains to enter our country is like a covenant." Citing a prophetic saying, he explains that "he who kills a man who has been given a covenant will not see paradise."

### MUSLIMS BLAMED FOR STATE OF DISCORD

A 250-word article by 'Adil Dayf, on page 20, discusses the challenges facing the Islamic nation due to their discord and the role the "enemies of the nation" are playing to divide it.

He states that Muslims themselves bear the largest share of responsibility for the state they have reached and stresses that Islamic states must unite, bury the hatchet, and find solutions for their problems.

Dayf points out that the first priority is to stop "exchanging accusations" and meet at the same table to discuss and resolve border disputes. He adds that resources should be dedicated to construction and the investment of science in the various fields "to make up for what we have missed."

He finally says that the nation should hold on to God's book and his prophet's tradition to restore the nation's status in the world.

### WRITER VIEWS HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAM

A related 400-word article by 'Adil Dayf, on page 21, notices "a continuing campaign against Muslims all over the world." He names four reasons for this campaign: The Jews who control world media escalate the campaign everywhere; the enemies of Islam and Muslims waste no opportunity to distort everything Islamic; the wrong conduct of some Muslims is misused by others; and the weakness of Muslims tempts the enemies to keep up their onslaught.

To illustrate this onslaught, he cites the campaign against Roger Garaudy, who reveals the falsities promoted by the Jews in one of his books.

He urges Muslims to stand united, to try to present the true image of Islam, to stop fighting among themselves, and to stand together in the face of this hostile campaign.

## Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 May

*NC2205083096*

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 May edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Mubarak Refers al-Wasat Party Founders to Military Court
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6. Labor Party Leader Leaves for Islamic Conference in Libya
7. Writer Husayn Criticizes Government Handling of Opposition
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11. Writer Curses 'Israeli-American Peace', U.S. Aid to Egypt
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15. Brotherhood Guide Assails U.S.-Israeli Plans Against Muslims

### MUBARAK REFERS AL-WASAT PARTY FOUNDERS TO MILITARY COURT

Dawud Hasan writes a 500-word report on page one in which he discusses recent developments in the crisis between the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and the government after "President Husni Mubarak on Saturday [11 May] referred the 13 people who are political and union leaders currently held in prison pending trial for case number 332/1996 of establishing the al-Wasat Party, to the military public prosecutor in preparation for their military trial. This is the fourth case in one year in which a number of MB leaders have been charged and their case has been referred to the military courts." Hasan provides background information on the case and the people involved in it, as well as the charges leveled against them, such as belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, establishing a political party without the proper legal background, and publishing pamphlets and tracts. The report further notes counter-measures taken by some MB lawyers to free the defendants.

### AL-HUDAYBI CRITICIZES FOUNDERS' REFERRAL TO MILITARY COURT

Page one publishes a 150-word report on statements to AL-SHA'B by MB Spokesman Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi in which he says that the decision to refer the al-Wasat Party founders to the military courts "is a continuation of the policy of aggression against the rights and dignity of the Egyptian citizen and the natural civil courts and Constitution, which guarantee the citizens' rights. The Constitution itself did not stipulate referring normal citizens to the military courts, which specialize only in crimes of a military nature." He notes that the decision violates the human rights' charters that Egypt has signed.

### CASE AGAINST AL-ALFI'S SON FOR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT AL-SHA'B

Page one publishes a 50-word report which says that Mamduh Faraj, legal counselor for AL-SHA'B newspaper, filed a lawsuit against 'Ala' Hasan al-Alfi, son of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, for making incorrect allegations about AL-SHA'B newspaper. Al-Alfi reportedly accused AL-SHA'B chief editor of publishing a report claiming that al-Alfi hit the employees of a luxury hotel in Heliopolis. Faraj notes that the AL-SHA'B reports never mentioned 'Ala' al-Alfi by name. This makes his allegations completely untrue.

### KAHANE HAY THREATENS MUSLIMS IN U.S., PROMISES REVENGE

A 320-word report by Kamal Habib also on page one gives the text of a "threat" that the Zionist organization Kahane Hay sent to Muslims in the West vowing that it will take revenge against their houses, residences, mosques, and offices. AL-SHA'B notes that it got a report on the threat through the "internet" and that the threat was sent to various Islamic centers in the United States. The threat warns Muslims to stop their preachers from delivering fiery sermons and stop their activities. It further warns: "If our interests outside Israel are threatened, we will strike at the heart of Islamic gatherings in the West." The threat notes that Zionists control world politics and economics and can therefore do a great deal of harm. The Federal Bureau of Investigations is looking into the matter, the report notes.

### LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES RESOLUTIONS ON PEACE

Page one also publishes a 200-word report by Salah al-Nahif, which is continued on page 8, on a meeting of the Labor Party's executive committee under Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri. The Committee approved a number of resolutions after long discussions. Some of these are "to ask the Egyptian Government to freeze all relations with Israel and stop all normalization measures with it, particularly providing it with gasoline;" "to condemn the Palestine National Council's amendment of some of the articles of its charter;" and "to condemn the acts of oppression some Palestinian resistance men are being subjected to." The committee also called for stopping the deterioration in Sudanese-Egyptian relations and asked the two governments to enter negotiations to resolve their differences.

### LABOR PARTY LEADER LEAVES FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN LIBYA

A 20-word unattributed report on the top left hand corner of page one notes that Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri left for Libya with a delegation from the party's executive committee to attend the emergency conference of the Islamic popular leadership to discuss "the U.S. threats directed at the Libyan people and the popular arrangements for confronting them."

### WRITER HUSAYN CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF OPPOSITION

Two articles by Majdi Ahmad Husayn are published on page two. The first article is about 2000 words and discusses the conflict between the government and the opposition — the Labor Party in particular. Husayn criticizes the government, which he says always subdues the opposition, even when the opposition supports it on some stances. He says: "The rulers strike us when we declare our support for this or that stance, even if our stance is only oral. Is this a stupid coincidence? Or are the rulers trying to get closer to the enemies by slaughtering the sons of the homeland?" He wonders whether "the rulers worry that we will become very popular when the course of events proves that what we called for was correct." He gives examples of the opposition's support for the government's stance on the Israeli nuclear weapons. The government at that time arrested 'Adil Husayn and preoccupied the country with this issue for a whole month, and then retreated from its stance on the Israeli nuclear weapons.

He also notes the fluid government stance on the U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the region. He notes: "We are not suggesting to our rulers at this specific time that they provide the ideal democratic atmosphere to which our ancient nation aspires. However, we do believe that the least they can do is keep things as they are and stop the continuous deterioration." Husayn says that as soon as the cease-fire in Lebanon took effect, the government speeded up its attempts to amend Press Law 93, despite the fact that the law is being deliberated in the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly. Husayn then notes insider information on what the government has up its sleeve in the way of clipping the wings of the Higher Constitutional Court to marginalize its role. The government also does not intend to hold the elections for the Lawyers' Association at the usual time, making its situation similar to that of the engineers and doctors associations.

Husayn moves on to criticize the interior minister's rejection of the initiative to end violence that was proposed by the Islamic groups. He says: "Why doesn't the Interior Ministry maintain its silence and proceed with its policies as it wants? Is the objective to incite violence?" He describes the Interior Ministry's attack on the Islamic groups' proposal to end violence as "a kind of political stupidity." He discusses the authority's illegal stance on the al-Wasat Party, where its establishment has neither been approved nor rejected. And he also notes the Awqaf Ministry's dangerous measures that only preachers and imams appointed by the Ministry are allowed to preach and give lessons in religion. In addition, Husayn gives the example of referring the MB members who founded al-Wasat Party to the military courts.

Husayn asks the government to translate many of its verbal stances into deeds. For example, President Mubarak said in his May Day speech that there can be no leniency with the Israeli aggression. "We say: What is the practical translation of these words?" He expresses his belief that Egypt is capable of realizing Arab reconciliation if it is serious about it. He also notes that Egypt is able to realize national reconciliation inside and stop the small games it plays whose targets are the Islamic, popular, and national organizations. He warns: "If you do not do this, you will lose both the internal and external battles at the same time." He concludes that they will continue their campaign against Israeli-U.S. hegemony over the region and their struggle against the belligerence of the authorities on the internal front. He stresses that Egypt will regain its powerful position in the region and play the role of leader of the Arab nation; but it can only do so when its people are respected by its rulers.

## HUSAYN CRITICIZES AL-ALFI'S STANCE ON SON'S BUSINESS DEALS

The second article by Majdi Ahmad Husayn on the same page is also 2000-words. It criticizes Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi for his silence over allegations of his son's corruption. One of al-Alfi's sons, 'Adil al-Alfi, is employed at the Foreign Ministry and is alleged to be involved in corrupt dealings involving buying condominiums and buildings in Cairo and Alexandria from a suspect business, the owner of which is currently in prison. Al-Alfi's other son, 'Ala', is a free-lance engineer, the article says. Husayn comments about an interview the interior minister gave to AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, in which he is asked about his son's suspect business deals. Al-Alfi insists on talking about his engineer son, and avoids the topic of 'Adil, the one implicated in the corruption scandal. The writer suggests that al-Alfi does not wish to discuss his son's shady business deals because he hopes the story will be forgotten, particularly since the chief editor of AL-SHA'B newspaper - the writer of this article - will be thrust into prison on 28 May. Husayn vows that the story will not be forgotten and that AL-SHA'B will continue to investigate these business deals and expose them. He concludes: "We realize that anything the minister might say now, after 100 days have gone by since publishing the article, will be weak and have no credibility. Had he had something real and important to say, why did he remain silent for 100 days?"

## OPINION SURVEY ON ISLAMIC GROUP INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE

Page three publishes a 3000-word opinion survey of some prominent figures on the call made by Khalid Ibrahim, Islamic Group leader in Aswan, to end violence. The survey asks a number of questions, such as how violence can be stopped and reactions to the initiative by Khalid Ibrahim. One of the figures interviewed is Hamdi al-Sayyid, doctors' doyen and People's Assembly member. He says: "I fully agree that there is a need to hold serious and continuous dialogue between all the official state institutions and the various popular and party forces in Egypt to discuss the reasons for violence and ways to terminate it. The one condition is that the framework for this dialogue should be to agree on condemning this terrorism. The framework of haggling is a rejected principle."

Another figure who is asked for his reaction is Rafiq Habib, social scientist and one of the founders of al-Wasat Party. He discusses the reasons why violence is bred. His only criticism of the initiative is that it is limited by a time frame. He notes that the general atmosphere in Egypt does not give people the chance to express their opinions and vent their frustration through legal channels. Furthermore, he says, those who try to work through the law do not find enough scope to perform their natural role, while those who work outside the law are the ones that impose their influence.

## REPORT ON SECURITY SITUATION IN MARKAZ MALLAWI, VILLAGES

Page three also carries a 2500-word investigative report by Ahmad Mahjub, who toured the villages of Markaz Mallawi, on the security situation in the district. He also interviews residents and community leaders on the situation. He notes that some villages have been turned into virtual prisons: Curfews are imposed on them, roads are blocked off, and people are arrested indiscriminately. Some residents have been forced to carry arms and patrol the streets to look for "fugitive men of violence." Many residents are fleeing the villages because of the security forces' measures against them. The situation in Mallawi town itself is quiet and the residents are happy with it. However, security measures are very tight. There are fences round certain parts of the town. There are also watch-towers erected in the center of town every 200 meters or so which are manned by armed security forces. The report concludes with an interview with the al-Minya governor, who assures the reporter that the situation in Mallawi is calm and quiet.

## WRITER CURSES 'ISRAELI-AMERICAN PEACE', U.S. AID TO EGYPT

Dr. al-Shafi'i Bashir writes a 1500-word article on page five entitled "Accursed Be Your Israeli-American Peace." After discussing recent events in the region, such as the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon and his reactions to it, Bashir discusses the dangers of the Israeli-U.S. alliance. He says: "Our biggest catastrophe is that we do not understand, nor do we want to understand the dangerous nature of the organic alliance between Israel and the United States; that this alliance is directed against us now and in the future; that the strategic Israeli-U.S. goals in the region are one and the same and we are their victims; and that the United States can never perform the role of mediator between us and Israel except for the interests of Israel itself." The writer mocks the U.S. president's audacious statements in which he accuses Hizballah for the Israeli attacks on the UN base in Qana, southern Lebanon. He wonders: "What peace is this? It is the Israeli-U.S. peace in the region which realizes the interests of international Zionism and U.S. imperialism." He notes that the U.S. Administration uses the weapon of aid for Egypt in order to control Egyptian governments and make them fall in line behind the U.S.-Israeli peace track.

Bashir criticizes U.S. aid to Egypt, which is meant to make Egypt capitulate and submit to the U.S. designs in the region. Much of this aid goes back to the Americans, anyway, in the form of payments for their expertise. He warns the Egyptian Government that its fate will be worse than that of Lebanon, and one day it will wake up to a more bitter experience than the one Lebanon went through. He concludes: Our issue with Israel is religious in the first place. "The Israelis and Americans understood this fact in their readings of the Old Testament. The difference between us and them is that they have understood and applied what they read, while our rulers have neither understood nor applied anything. Who shall we resort to to make them understand?"

## 'ADIL HUSAYN ADDRESSES COMMITTEE ON PRIVATIZATION MEASURES

Page six carries an unattributed 3000-word report on the celebrations of the national committee for the defense of prisoners held for expressing opinions and performing union activities. Various political and labor leaders spoke during the celebrations, among them Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. He speaks about the privatization measures in Egypt and says: "We should not think that the issue of privatization is isolated from the issues of corruption and social and political reform." 'Adil Husayn adds that if reform is comprehensive and on all levels, then the conditions for workers should improve. He notes that it should be the workers' right to change the existing general policies if they are proven to be failures. The rest of the report cites various other speakers.

## PARTIES' COMMITTEE TO REJECT AL-WASAT PARTY FOUNDATION

Page eight publishes a 60-word report by Ashraf Khalil about a secret meeting the parties' committee held on Monday morning, 13 May, under Mustafa Kamal Hilmi in which the issue of the al-Wasat party was discussed. The general trend in the committee is to reject the foundation of the party for the main reason that the "new party is an attempt to revive an illegitimate organization — the Muslim Brotherhood — and that it is based on religious grounds, which goes against the Constitution."

## COLUMNIST ON ARAB INCOMPETENCE, SUBMISSION TO U.S.

A 1000-word article by al-Sayyid al-Ghadban entitled "The Way To End Official Arab Incompetence" is published on the back page. The writer begins his article by criticizing "the extent of the U.S. defiance and degradation of all Arabs which the U.S. president's tone teems with." Never before has the United States insulted the Arabs and Muslims to this extent publicly, not even at the height of the conflict between them. Clinton has now said in public what U.S. officials used to say behind closed doors, and he knows that Arab rulers will swallow everything. He also knows that they will strike their people if the latter dare speak out. These rulers even ask the United States for protection from their own people. Ghadban calls on Arab leaders to amend their stances toward their people so that these people become their protective shield. He asks the leaders "to honestly reconcile with their people and trust them. They should allow their people to freely express their legitimate anger over the American insults." He concludes by wondering whether the Arab rulers will make use of the right method and moment, or whether they will allow the "official Arab incompetence" to continue.

### BROTHERHOOD GUIDE ASSAILS U.S.-ISRAELI PLANS AGAINST MUSLIMS

In his 1,800-word article on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mustafa Mashhur continues to attack U.S. and Israeli policies and "schemes" against Arabs and Muslims, and he urges unity of the Muslim nation to confront enemy plans.

Mashhur cites the following as proof of Israeli-U.S. "blatant enmity" toward Arabs and Muslims: The position of Israel and the United States on the UN report on the Qana massacre, Israel's war in Lebanon and its closure of Palestinian territory, the military agreement between Israel and Turkey, attempts to attack Sudan and divide the country, U.S. and Israeli encouragement of Yasir 'Arafat to undermine the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, and the U.S. court ruling allowing the extraditing of Hamas leader Musa Abu-Marzuq to Israel.

Noting US. military and financial support for Israel, Mashhur maintains that the United States "has taken the side of the Zionist enemy and shared its policy against the Palestinians and Arab countries since the Zionist entity was established." He then exclaims: "And yet, we still hear some people saying that the United States is a main partner in the issue of peace." He notes that the United States used its veto power at the UN Security Council more than 30 times between 1972 and 1996 "to protect the enemy from being condemned". He also points out Israel's efforts to impose economic hegemony on the Arab world.

In light of all this, says the Muslim Brotherhood general guide, "it is absolutely unacceptable for our Arab countries to receive representatives of the enemy or to conclude any agreements with it." He says the United States should also be warned against the anger of the Arab public. He urges Arab countries to respect their peoples' sentiments, to end their differences, and to unleash public liberties. He maintains that the Middle East peace Israel and the United States are talking about is nothing but "humiliating capitulation".

Mashhur says Israel and its supporters seek to "eliminate Islam, especially after the collapse of communism." He says the enemy, which knows Muslims' love for jihad and martyrdom, fear the resurrection of the Islamic spirit. This is why Islam is being labeled as a terrorist and fundamentalist religion, and this is why those who resist occupation are branded as Islamic extremists, he says. He adds that enemies incite some Arab governments against Islamists to divert attention from their own plans against Muslims.

Mashhur reiterates that the way out of all this is to unify the Islamic position, stop grievances and unjust arrests in the Muslim world, and adhere to the teachings of Islam. "Let us prepare ourselves, our people, and our youths for jihad and martyrdom. The battle is definitely coming, and our strength lies in our unity."

Addressing members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mashhur tells them to remain patient and to be confident of a God-granted victory. "For all their tremendous material power, the enemies will not be able to eliminate this religion or those who are working for it." He adds: "We will continue the march, implementing God's order firmly and patiently and sticking to our moderate and non-violent approach, using wise and peaceful preaching." He tells the Muslim Brothers: "You had the honor of exposing the enemy and its intentions more than 60 years ago. You were the first to confront the enemy and warn against its plans. Regrettably, you suffered many ordeals because of this. Now, the Arab and Islamic world began to realize that you were sincere, and it is now convinced of the need to confront this malicious enemy, which holds evil for all states of the region."

### Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 May

*NC2205082496*

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 May edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. CIA Chief Visits Ethiopia to Encourage Sudan Rebels to Secede
2. Al-Wasat Party Detainees Refuse to Testify
3. Efforts to Include Syria, Lebanon in Amman Arab Summit
4. Egypt Protests Against UN Human Rights Report
5. Columnist Criticizes Mubarak-Husayn-'Arafat Summit Communique
6. Party Leaders Oppose Trial of Civilians in Military Courts
7. Writers Denounce Military Trial of al-Wasat Party Founders
8. Rights Group Protests Military Trial of Party Members
9. Writer Defends Muslim Brothers
10. U.S. Policy on Egypt Criticized
11. Islamic Bookshop Raided, Books Confiscated

### CIA CHIEF VISITS ETHIOPIA TO ENCOURAGE SUDAN REBELS TO SECEDE

A 370-word, front-page report filed by Mahmud Bakri says that the CIA director paid a secret visit to Ethiopia and other African countries for talks "to invigorate" the rebellion in south Sudan against the Sudanese regime.

### AL-WASAT PARTY DETAINEES REFUSE TO TESTIFY

A 540-word, front-page report compiled by Qutb al'Arabi and Dawud Hasan deals with the arrest and trial of al-Wasat Party members. It says: "In an important development, the al-Wasat Party detainees last Tuesday refused to testify before a military investigator. They announced that they do not recognize the military judiciary's authority to try civilians." The report adds that the military investigator ordered that the defendants remain in custody for 45 days.

The report says the Egyptian Human Rights Organization has denounced the referral of al-Wasat Party founders to military tribunals, and that the Cairo University teaching club denounced the trial of some university professors without charges.

In its statement, the club said the news of the referral of the professors to military tribunals "shocked" their colleagues and students. It added that the "measure harms Egypt's international reputation, causes frustration and despair among the Egyptian people, and drags the armed forces into political animosity against civilians." The club appealed to the president of the republic to "order the immediate release" of the detained university professors, the report says. It adds that the Egyptian communists denounced the referral of "the brothers" to a military tribunal "without justification." They demanded that the order be revoked and called for an end to the trial of civilians in military courts, the report says.

### EFFORTS TO INCLUDE SYRIA, LEBANON IN AMMAN ARAB SUMMIT

A 150-word, front-page report by Rabi' Shahin says contacts are under way between Egypt and Jordan to convene an expanded summit in Amman early in June. The report adds: "The aim of the Egyptian-Jordanian contacts is to remove differences and restore coordination among Arab parties known as the cordon states. The next phase is expected to see intense efforts to include Syria and Lebanon in this summit." The report says: "The summit aims to close gaps that allowed Israel's U.S.-backed boisterous acts in the region. It also aims to prepare the atmosphere for an expanded summit later on, and holding similar summits with the participation of other countries as a substitute for an expanded Arab summit, which is precluded by bilateral disagreements."

### EGYPT PROTESTS AGAINST UN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

A 520-word, unattributed report on page 1 cites the latest UN human rights report on the Egyptian authorities' "organized, ugly torture of detainees and suspects to extract information and confessions." AL-SHA'B's report says Egypt officially protested this report. It adds that Egypt's diplomatic envoy in Geneva conveyed a protest letter to the committee headquarters. He said that the report will be seen as defending violent groups and that the torture claims are "mere lies".

### COLUMNIST CRITICIZES MUBARAK-HUSAYN-'ARAFAT SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

Retired major general Tal'at Ahmad Musallam writes an approximately 900-word article on page 2 criticizing a communique released by the recent Cairo summit between Egyptian President Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

He says the participant leaders call for removing obstacles that still exist in the road to peace, but they do not say what these obstacles are and who created them.

Still citing the communique, he remarks that the principle of land for peace is invalid, because the Arabs do not have peace that they can give Israel and land should not be exchanged for anything—even for peace.

### PARTY LEADERS OPPOSE TRIAL OF CIVILIANS IN MILITARY COURTS

Page 3 of AL-SHA'B runs an approximately 1,750-word report by 'Amr Salman, including short interviews with various opposition party leaders and trade unionists. They reject the trial of civilians in military courts and "express astonishment" at the referral of al-Wasat Party founders to a military tribunal. The interviewees include Yasin Siraj-al-Din, chairman of Wafd Party's Parliamentary Committee; Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah, deputy leader of the Waft Party; Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping; Hamid Mahmud, deputy leader of the Nasirite Party; Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberals Party; the official spokesman for the Communists; chairmen of the engineers and doctors unions; and others.

### WRITERS DENOUNCE MILITARY TRIAL OF AL-WASAT PARTY FOUNDERS

Qutb al-'Arabi and Dr. Rafiq Habib write separate articles on page 3 denouncing the referral of al-Wasat Party founders to military courts.

In a 370-word article, al-'Arabi says he was not surprised by the president of the republic's decree referring the party founders to a military tribunal. But, he adds, he was surprised by the stand of the "legitimate parties," which did not act or meet to discuss the situation. He notes that "the issue is very serious" and that what happened to the al-Wasat Party founders could happen tomorrow to the current parties. He says the regime will not hesitate to do anything to defend its authority against "any potential threat by any party."

In his 1,900-word article, Dr. Habib says the move aims to "intimidate" the al-Wasat Party founders and anyone seeking to form a "serious" party and to employ "violence covered by formal procedures to prevent the formation of al-Wasat party."

### RIGHTS GROUP PROTESTS MILITARY TRIAL OF PARTY MEMBERS

A 340-word, unattributed report on the same page cites a statement issued by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization. The statement "expresses great concern" over the president of the republic's decree referring defendants in the case of al-Wasat party to military courts. The organization urges the president to respond to "its repeated appeals" to stop referring civilians to military courts.

### WRITER DEFENDS MUSLIM BROTHERS

A 320-word comment on page 6 by Hana' Muhammad defends the Muslim Brothers. The writer says the government knows full well that the Muslim Brothers are "among the best men in Egypt and are most concerned about our beloved Egypt."

### U.S. POLICY ON EGYPT CRITICIZED

In a 2,000-word second installment of his article in AL-SHA'B, Mukhtar 'Aziz criticizes U.S. policy in the region. He says that under "an alleged partnership theme," the Egyptian state policy prepared Egyptian deserts close to the Libyan border for U.S. military maneuvers "to provoke and intimidate Libya."

He adds that this policy, to which Egypt was dragged, has no goal except "isolating Egypt from its Arab environment" and weakening it. He asks: "For how long will the Arabs continue to bury their heads in sand in the face of this danger threatening their nation. In handling any imaginary crisis created by the United States, they resort to easy solutions that compromise their sovereignty over their countries by forwarding inspection proposals."

### ISLAMIC BOOKSHOP RAIDED, BOOKS CONFISCATED

A 90-word report by AL-SHA'B's correspondent in al-Gharbiyah on page 11 says the state security forces raided the Islamic al-Andalus bookshop in Tanta at night. The forces opened and searched the bookshop and confiscated literature and small books for fear that these books would be distributed during the 'Id al-Adha prayer.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Palestinian Affairs: 'Sharp' Differences, Split Seen Within Hamas Leadership

*TA2105174996 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 20 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharp differences within Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have escalated so much in recent days that they have reached the point of the exchange of accusations between its leaders. The gap between the movement's leaders inside the territories and abroad has been clearly noted. Conflicting statements have been issued. Each side claims that its statement is the one that represents the movement's tendency. While one statement called for refraining from carrying out acts of violence against Israel, the leaders abroad hastened to reject this statement and considered those who issued it not to be among the movement's cadres or leaders.

These recriminations and accusations have placed the movement, as observers say, at a crossroad with an unknown destiny whose elements might determine the upcoming period.

These accusations and the growing gap between the movement's leaders came at a time when Salim al-Za'nun, the Palestine National Council speaker, said that Hamas leaders residing abroad had issued a fatwa [religious ruling] to kill Palestinian officials. This aroused the outrage of large sectors of the Palestinian people, who are trying to consolidate their ranks for the great battle in its two parts — namely, the battle of negotiations on the final solution and the construction battle.

In Gaza, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar called on the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades to refrain from carrying out acts of violence against Israel so that these acts would not be interpreted as interference by the movement in favor of this or that party in Israel, which is awaiting the parliamentary elections on 29 May. Whereupon, Ibrahim Ghawshah, a Hamas leader abroad, hastened to attack al-Zahhar, saying that he is not the movement's spokesman. Al-Zahhar responded by stating that he will not engage in vituperations with Ghawshah.

Informed sources say that Hamas leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as some leaders who have fled from Tehran and Damascus, want to resume the dialogue with the National Authority [NA] on the basis of honoring the undertakings pledged by the PLO when it signed the Oslo agreement with Israel.

These sources add that several Hamas leaders abroad intend — with the support of several countries and agencies — to establish a new organization to continue acts of violence and oppose the NA after realizing that the movement's cadres in the Palestinian arena had moved away from them and rejected their orders, which they issue from the capitals in which they reside. Some sources have cited informed individuals in a number of capitals in the region as saying that a meeting was recently held in Tehran that was a follow-up of a meeting held near Beirut with the participation of Hamas leaders. At this meeting, the Hamas leaders briefed Iranian officials about the movement's sharp differences and the departure of some leaders from Lebanon and Syria to other capitals.

These sources stress that Iran offered more money for setting up a new organization, some of whose goals would be to continue opposition against and embarrass the NA, carry out assassination attempts against its officials, implement acts of violence against Israel, and try to assassinate Hamas leaders in the Palestinian arena who reject these tendencies.

At a time when the gap and differences between the movement's leaders inside and outside are increasing, the NA has welcomed the resumption of dialogue with anyone who respects its commitments and believes that maintaining law and order falls within the NA's powers. That person should also not carry weapons.

Observers say that Hamas is currently at a crossroad and many splits in its ranks might be announced, especially after the escape of some of its leaders who used to live in Lebanon, Syria, and Tehran. Those leaders believe in the necessity of a dialogue with the NA and of the need to realize the latest changes and developments in the region.

The observers add that Hamas leaders abroad want to control the movement inside. They act according to their whims, refuse to recognize the latest changes, and do not heed the stance of the broad masses in the Palestinian arena that rejects their policies. The hard-liners abroad receive support and aid from several agencies in some countries. Hence, they have been turned into tools in the hands of these agencies implementing the goals and policies of those countries.

The observers expect Hamas to hold a general conference either in Gaza or in another Palestinian town to announce the new tendencies and affirm that the movement inside has no connection with the hard-line wings abroad.

### Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Returns From Greece Visit

*JN2105194996 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 May 96*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] With God's care and blessings, President Yasir 'Arafat returned home a short while ago following a two-day visit to Greece during which he met with the Greek president, prime minister, and foreign minister.

President Yasir 'Arafat today received an honorary doctorate from the Greek (Patrice) University in appreciation of his efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. A big celebration was organized by the university on this occasion. The president delivered a speech in which he touched on the latest political developments in the region.

This morning, President 'Arafat met with the speaker of the Greek parliament. He also visited the Unknown Soldier's monument and laid a wreath.

'Arafat met with the Andreas Papandreaou, former Greek prime minister and leader of the ruling PASOK socialist party. 'Arafat also met with a number of Greek businessmen and discussed with them investment opportunities in Palestine. [video clip showing 'Arafat talking to an unknown Greek official, with an interpreter standing between them]

### Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Presides Over PLO Executive Committee Meeting

*JN2205093896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat presided over the first PLO Executive Committee meeting in Gaza last night.

The committee discussed latest political developments in the Palestinian arena and the negotiations with Israel. The committee heard a report from the president on the results of his visit to the United States, his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the resulting agreement to activate the work of the Palestinian-U.S. Committee. Washington also promised to continue its support for the peace process and to urge the donor countries to meet their commitment toward the Palestinian people and the National Authority.

The president briefed the Executive Committee members on his meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and his meeting with the Chinese ambassador, who is the current Security Council president, at UN headquarters in New York.

The president spoke about the tripartite summit, which also included Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan. He said Jordan and Egypt support the Palestinian negotiations and Palestinian rights, especially concerning occupied Jerusalem.

The president briefed the Executive Committee members on the results of his latest visit to Greece and spoke about his inspection tour of some West Bank governorates. He expressed great interest in following up what is happening on the ground and in making periodical visits of the areas.

The PLO Executive Committee decided to appoint Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, as secretary of the Executive Committee. The committee also decided to meet again within two weeks to continue discussing political developments.

The Executive Committee welcomed the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations and said it hoped the agreement will help end the suffering of the Iraqi people.

### Palestinian Affairs: PLO's 'Abbas on Israeli Elections, Jerusalem, Terror Attack

*TA1905094296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 May 96*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by correspondents 'Imanu'el Rosen and Gadi Sukenik in the studio—live; italicized passages in Arabic with simultaneous translation into Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rosen] Abu-Mazin, the number two man in the Palestinian Authority [PA], is in our studio. Good evening.

[Abu-Mazin] *Good evening.*

[Rosen] Elections are slated to be held in Israel in two weeks. If you could vote, whom would you choose: Bibi or Peres?

[Abu-Mazin] *If I were an Israeli citizen I would choose the person that serves the interests of the Israeli people. In my opinion, one of the Israeli people's most important interests is the search for peace, and living in peace and security in the Middle East region following wars that have lasted most of this century. Therefore, every Israeli citizen — if I were one — would choose the person that strives to achieve, realize, and search for peace.*

[Rosen] Who is this man?

[Abu-Mazin] *The man I am looking for is the one who will achieve peace. You know precisely better than me who will achieve peace.*

[Sukenik] Is it Peres?

[Abu-Mazin] *We achieved peace with this government. Therefore, I do not dictate to the Israelis who should represent them, but I also ask: Who will achieve peace and who achieved peace with us? Obviously, the current government worked with us for the sake of peace. [passage omitted]*

[Rosen] The Likud is saying that Peres will divide Jerusalem. Do you believe that Peres will divide Jerusalem and that he will give you what you want in Jerusalem?

[Abu-Mazin] *I would rather say that we must attain Jerusalem. We must attain East Jerusalem. I stated this clearly and frankly in my speech in Taba when we launched the final stage talks. In my viewpoint, Jerusalem is occupied land — of course, East Jerusalem — and it should be restored to the Palestinian side.*

[Sukenik] Have you received any message affirming what the Likud is saying in its campaign — that Peres will really divide Jerusalem? Have you received any compromise proposals on Jerusalem from Peres?

[Abu-Mazin] *We have not received a compromise solution from Peres, but in the Oslo Accords we referred to Jerusalem in more than one place. The important thing, however, is that we referred to it as an issue that is subject to discussions and negotiations. Hence, it will be placed on the negotiating table.*

[Rosen] Have you received any messages from Yosi Beilin, for example, or from his men such as Ron Pundaq and others, that they are ready to talk with you about Jerusalem, that they are ready to hold negotiations with you over Jerusalem?

[Abu-Mazin] *I do not deny that we have talked or rather met more than once with Yosi Beilin. We discussed all the pending issues between us — whether those relating to the interim or final stage — but we did not negotiate about anything. It was an open dialogue in preparation for the launching of the final stage talks.*

[Sukenik] In fact, you are saying that no one — not even from the Labor Party — has yet promised you anything relating to Jerusalem?

[Abu-Mazin] *We have not received any clear promises from the Labor Party about the redivision of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]*

[Sukenik] Are the terrorist elements — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad — really seeking now to carry out attacks before the elections in order to oust Peres from power?

[Abu-Mazin] *I believe that they may be planning operations similar to the ones they have carried out in the past whether in order to prevent Peres from retaining power or to destroy the PA. The operations have dual goals. Consequently, one thing or another could be the aim, but we are carrying out our duty and hope that they will not succeed in achieving their goals.*

[Sukenik] In your view, if a Likud government comes to power, will the peace process stop or continue?

[Abu-Mazin] *I am not sure that if the Likud comes to power it will be the end of the whole process. The question should be posed to the Likud: Does it believe in the peace process? Does it believe in the continuation of the peace process? Does it believe in continuing the process that we launched together for the sake of reaching a peace process based on mutual respect for the rights, interests, and aspirations of the two people? This question must be posed to the Likud: Is it ready for such measures or not.*

[Sukenik] You have no answer?

[Abu-Mazin] *This was my answer.*

[Sukenik] Thanks very much to Abu-Mazin. Thank you very much.

### Palestinian Affairs: PNC's al-Za'nun on Charter, Hamas Status

*MM2005150896 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic*
*18 May 96 p 5*

[Interview with PNC Chairman Salim al-Za'nun by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] What did you mean by saying at the opening of the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] session that the problem of revising the PLO Charter is "psychological"?

[Al-Za'nun] I said that the problem of amending the charter was psychological because there are some people who believe that the charter is a sacred thing and consequently it cannot be amended, while others believe that it is only promulgated law that has failed to keep up with the development of events and that it has been amended in practice more than once. So I said that our task was to rid ourselves of this psychological problem.

[Humaydi] But was not the amendment of the charter carried out under American-Israeli pressure?

[Al-Za'nun] I was in the forefront of those who worked to obtain a high price for the amendment of the charter and to ensure that we exact the maximum price for this amendment. However, I can say that the price for this amendment of the charter was received in advance. Negotiations were held in Oslo between Israel and the Palestinians of inside [the territories]. The draft declaration of principles stated that the first party is Israel while the second party is the Palestinians in the inside, in other words, it (Israel) maintained its insistence on the formula it had previously insisted upon during the Madrid negotiations concerning the formation of the delegation. In short, it refused to deal with the PLO.

What happened in Oslo was that Israel realized as a result of the negotiations that however hard it tried to talk to the PLO, its efforts would be to no avail. For this reason, the leadership of Israel decided to seek a resolution of its problems through talks with the entire Palestinian people and to sign an accord with the PLO. But, it said, the PLO Charter calls for the destruction of the Hebrew State and so no signing took place [of the Declaration of Principles], until Yasir 'Arafat (the Palestinian president) sent a letter to Yitzhaq Rabin (the Israeli prime minister) saying that the PLO considers the aforementioned articles in the charter as null and void and that he will try to secure a decision to this effect during the first meeting the PNC holds.

[Humaydi] Did you not ask for any other price?

[Al-Za'nun] If we had tackled the matter on a legal basis, then we would have tried to obtain another price. But the matter had ended with 'Arafat's letter.

[Humaydi] But the timing of the adoption of the amendment decision was fixed by others to help Prime Minister Shim'on Peres win the elections, was it not?

[Al-Za'nun] I said on 3 July 1994 that I do not deny that a Palestinian commitment to amend the charter exists, but it was not tied down to any specific time and that the proper time for this would come when four conditions had been met. These were: That the [Palestinian] Authority takes control of the entire lands of the Bank and the Strip, that members of the PNC would enter the territories as citizens and not as visitors, that the detainees would be released, and that representatives of the inside, whose participation Israel used to reject, should be elected. I can say that over 60 percent of these conditions had already been met at the time.

[Humaydi] Why did you not wait until after the realization of the remaining conditions?

[Al-Za'nun] If we are to discuss the reasons for not waiting for the realization of the remaining 40 percent of the conditions, then I say that they (the Israelis) used the [suicide] operations, which they considered infringed the accord, as a pretext for preventing the Authority from achieving its objectives.

[Humaydi] What are your own views on this matter?

[Al-Za'nun] The Israelis said that they consider the operations an indication of the Authority's inability to preserve peace and consequently that they have to resume their security-maintaining efforts. Indeed, they had partially returned to do so in the West Bank.

I presided over a dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Cairo. We agreed then on two points: First, that they would not boycott the elections. The second was that they would not embarrass the Authority. Hamas told 'Arafat something that implied a halting of operations. Indeed, the operations were frozen for five months.

[Humaydi] Why did Hamas resume its operations?

[Al-Za'nun] Hamas says that this was due to the killing of (Engineer Yahya) 'Ayyash by the Israelis. Israel's reaction to the resumption of the operations, however, was to close the Gaza Strip and the Bank and prevent food provisions from reaching them.

If you were to hold a referendum among the people and employees, you would find out that all are agreed that the resumption of operations came at the wrong time. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and other released Hamas leaders believe the same thing too.

[Humaydi] But they want to topple the Labor government and its leader Peres, don't they?

[Al-Za'nun] The fact is that Hamas is actually "many Hamas." Following my meeting with 18 Hamas leaders in Cairo, I can say that the eight who came from the inside had one attitude, whereas the three who came from the outside and who control the funds did not want any understanding with the (Palestine) Authority nor any halting of the operations and did not approve of the phrase "not embarrassing the Authority." They added that it does not mean the cessation of operations.

The position of the Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip and the Bank differs from that of their colleagues outside, who considered the attitude taken by Mahmud al-Zahhar and his colleagues to be weak. For this reason, a special organization of which neither Mahmud al-Zahhar nor the others knew, was formed. Instructions were issued to this organization to continue with the old Hamas line under the slogan of "not halting the Jihad operations." This organization is not known to the Authority or to Hamas. When the first three operations took place, it was established that those who carried out these operations came from the al-Fawwar camp, that is from the territories under Israel's control. This meant that Hamas did not want to embarrass the Authority because the operations were not mounted from the self-rule territories. But when the Dezengov [as transliterated] operation took place, it transpired that the culprit in this case was a student of the Islamic University in Gaza who lives at Khan Yunus camp. Israel, which landed forces in Bi'r Zayt, had intended to carry out the landing in Khan Yunus, but American and Egyptian intervention prevented it from doing so and the matter was confined to the holding of the summit conference at Sharm al-Shaykh. If the landing had taken place at Khan Yunus, the Authority would have had no alternative but to pack and return to Tunisia. But to protect itself the Authority carried out wide-scale arrests. Investigations with leading Hamas members proved that they had nothing to do with these operations and that those who carried them out had received direct orders and that the leaders knew nothing about the secret organization.

The investigating authorities have in their possession documents proving that the orders were issued from the outside to the special organization, some of whose members had been arrested. They made confessions about the way they receive orders and that there is a Fatwa calling for the murder of the men of the Authority.

[Humaydi] But the leaderships of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad affirm that what prevented the carrying out of operations was their anxiousness not to harm any elements of the Palestinian police.

[Al-Za'nun] There is a Fatwa calling for the killing of the men of the Authority because they (Hamas and the Jihad) consider them to be no less than the Israelis in fighting Hamas.

[Humaydi] What do you expect the PLO's fate to be in the light of recent developments, including the amendment of the charter?

[Al-Za'nun] There were three formulas: First the annulment of the abovementioned articles, which we rejected, or the drafting of a new charter, but we found an adequate formula which would embody the PNC decision to amend the charter and the articles that conflict with the messages exchanged between the PLO and Israel.

The second was to ask a legal committee to consider the setting up of a new charter to be submitted to the next session of the PNC. But the Israeli opposition objected to this and claimed that the Palestinians had deceived Israel and that they had not amended the charter and that all they had done was to make a promise to amend the charter. [third formula not mentioned]

[Humaydi] How far have the negotiations concerning the return of the opposition leaders of the inside gone?

[Al-Za'nun] A decision was taken permitting the return of [Nayif] Hawatimah [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. 'Arafat sent a letter to the Israelis permitting Hawatimah to return. But the Israelis objected saying that Hawatimah was a Jordanian and not a Palestinian. We replied that he was an observer and hence he should be permitted to enter. So a decision was taken to permit him and Habash to enter.

[Humaydi] Did Israel approve the conditions which Hawatimah laid down?

[Al-Za'nun] When he gets bigger than Israel, he can then lay down conditions. If I did not want to enter, I would say that I would enter together with 70 other people and lay down conditions.

## Algeria

### Algeria: Iraqi Embassy Official Hails Oil-for-Food Accord

*LD2105134596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 96*

[Remarks by Dr. 'Adil Hamza, press adviser at the Iraqi Embassy in Algeria, in Algiers on 21 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding this issue [oil-for-food agreement], in fact, from our point of view, the agreement reached between Iraq and the United Nations is considered a step to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions which have been imposed on Iraq for almost six years.

Definitely, the outcome of the negotiations which took place over more than four months of hard and continuous work would have been better had it not been for the interference and domination of some countries over the Security Council. This domination, which became very clear to the world public during the last few weeks of the negotiations, has given rise to indignation and condemnation even among members of the Security Council and the UN secretary general.

As I said, we consider the agreement a step to alleviate the suffering [of the Iraqi people] and it will definitely be consolidated by other future steps.

### Algeria: Algiers Welcomes UN-Iraq Oil-for-Food Agreement

*LD2105223996 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algeria has received with satisfaction the agreement yesterday between Iraq and the United Nations on the oil-for-food formula in implementation of Security Council Resolution 986.

A communique released today by the Foreign Ministry said that the Algerian Government wishes that this agreement would alleviate the sufferings of fraternal Iraqi people and would constitute the first step toward lifting the embargo imposed by the Security Council on Iraq. [passage omitted]

### Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

*MS2005104396 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 14 May 96*

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

**Editorial — Legitimately seeking a proper use of "political power"!**

Praise be to Allah,

In the past few decades, the muslim Ummah has been witnessing a revival of Islam mostly achieved through sincere Islamic scholars who not only kept themselves free from the "rulers selfish control" but were most of the time subject to a perpetual persecution. A sad fact about the muslim Ummah is that any qualitative "jump" in History has been activated by the few persecuted Scholars rather than the many in and around the "ruler's palace". This however, does not take away from some of the later, important contributions in other Islamic branches of knowledge which are less compromising and risky then the "licit politics" (As-siyassa ash-sharyia).

When the muslim "masses" are shown that part of the somewhat hidden Islam which deals with "real Islamic Monotheism" (Tawhid) relative to human being/Creator relationship and "Justice" relative to human being (or group of...)/human being (or group of...) relationship as well as human being/ environment relationship [as received], they adhere to that as it "vibrates" harmoniously with that "pre-tuned inner being" called "Al-Fitra". Never the Ummah of Mohammed (p.b.u.h) [praise be upon him], will wholeheartedly or willingly submit to those with the devil urge of "playing Gods on earth" in a broader sense nor will it collaborate spreading Injustice and corruption of decadent regimes.

The non-collaboration with those regimes has taken many forms over the years, from passive patience to a more active militancy. Nevertheless, the global outcome has been either the freezing, wasting and deviating of "social energy" or internal "bleeding". But in today's world where "justice" is always on the side of the "strong and healthy", the Ummah needs to get "well" again as it can not afford the luxury of wasting energy and relaxing under the sun anymore. It is a point of survival. This is not a subjective evaluation and one has only to look at the fragility and mistrust that exist in most of local grouping within the Ummah, to declare it "sick and in need of an immediate attention"! How can one explain why is it that outside the Ummah, "macro-nations" are being formed at the "speed of light" while inside it, project of regional unification are taking ages of stagnation when it is not a case of "one step forward and two backward"?!

So what is it standing between the "status quo" and the vital necessary changes? Shamelessly: "Political power", the ultimate means for social change!

On this important point, some of our respected Scholars, may Allah Protect them, tend to address the issue without nuances. They do not separate between "political power" and the "use of political power". The less "scholarly knowledgable" believers just know that the commander of the Mujahedeen (peace be upon him) has moved his army for the sake of one single muslim woman's honour. The late situation in Bosnia for example, has surely left many of them speechless to say the least!

The Islamist struggle to be licit has to be exclusively about the "use of political power" in order to be within the permissible limits of "As siyassa ash-sharyia". And if within Islamic movements, they are Islamists or those thought of, as such, and who are struggling for "political power" as a finality, they better repand to Allah quickly and return from that modern age "Allaty, Uza and Hobbal" to the One (S.W.T), Source of all powers! In this point, and given some foreign powers connivance against the interest of this Ummah today, any regime which sincerely tends to use the "political power" in harmony with the above "Fitra", should be left alone if not helped as long as it does not obstruct the work of "Dawaa" (the call of people to Allah).

And as Shaykh Ali Belhadj, may Allah hasten his freedom and all the prisoners of opinion in Algeria, said: "if you have ruled us by the fairness Islam, you would have found in these young Mujahedeen your more fervent defenders".

Otherwise, and under no pretext whatsoever, should an Islamist movement or party be prevented from addressing the people, presenting to them directly its project and program and then seeking from them as everybody does, the "political power" which it can then either use it itself or back up for it anybody it may see fits.

As political rights are hardly given for free, stubborn obstacles on the path of the Ummah march in History, must be removed tactlessly!

**Algeria Newsflash**

Looking for outside "uncompetitive brains" to solve Algerians problems!

"Rumours" in Algeria are talking about the military regime seeking "expertism" from the Egyptian regime after having asked and used those from the military Generals in Ankara. Many Algerians are very far from seeing the actual Egyptian regime as an ideal or as suitable one given the heavily distorted, unbalanced, "uniman" and unjust political decision making process that has been prevailing in Cairo since the fifties. Many are also deeply convinced that Algeria human resources are fully adequate to find proper fair rules to shape up its future and will do what it needs in order not to end up with a "black" human rights record as that of Cairo. They do not want to take Algeria out of a prison so that she is put back at its main entrance, as the popular adage translates into.

**Print workers start indefinite strike!**

Print workers in Algiers went on an indefinite strike last Tuesday [7 May] and several newspapers did not appear on newsstands because of the interruption. The strike was to protest a restructuring plan that would cut jobs. This strike has highlighted the monopoly on the newspaper printing "industry" held jealously by the military regime. And this denotes the regime's intention of always "squeezing" as much as it can and by any means the already very limited "expression space". Talking about Democracy in those conditions is like putting people in a large dark warehouse, telling them there are many doors from where they can chose to get out but putting lights on only one, that of the regime!

**Air Algerie airline also on strike!**

Another strick was announced this time by the Algerian airline company pilots autonomous syndicate. This strick will take place every Tuesday until the demands of the workers are met. The syndicate was clever enough not to fall into the trap and affect the "hajj flight" of which Mr Ouyahyia's government would have be extremely happy to "hit the strick" with "Islam"!

## Egypt

### Egypt: Paper Welcomes Iraq-UN Oil-for-Food Agreement

*NC2205054696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 22 May 96*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "Glimpse of Hope for Iraqi People," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Iraqi people are entitled to rejoice over the oil-for-food agreement signed between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations. The agreement is the first glimpse of hope for easing their suffering after six years of punishment, embargo, and starvation. It could also become the first step toward ending Iraq's isolation and reinstating it as an effective member of the Arab and international community.

The newspaper adds: We hope that the agreement will mark the beginning of a reconciliation between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations. The past few years have witnessed mistrust between the two sides.

Iraq has been constantly accused of not implementing UN resolutions. However, it is now implementing a UN Security Council resolution without ambiguity or vacillation. We hope this will be a good beginning toward rehabilitating Iraq and returning the smile to the faces of their downtrodden people.

## Sudan

### Sudan: Authorities To Put 19 on Trial for 'Undermining' Regime

*NC2105162296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 21 May (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities are currently taking the necessary steps to put 19 detainees on special trial, on charges of "undermining and fighting the regime" by holding contacts with 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, commander of the opposition Popular Alliance Forces, and recruiting youths to join the alliance's camps in the Eritrean capital Asmara.

The Sudanese authorities yesterday pressed charges against the 19 defendants, under Article 51 of the Sudanese Penal Code. The Penalty for these charges could include the death sentence. According to informed sources, the defendants include Dr. Mustafa 'Awad-al-Karim, a pharmacist and member of the legitimate Pharmacists Association; and al-Sirr Mikki, a secondary school teacher.

### Sudan: Disagreements Reported in Iran Over al-Turabi Visit

*EA2105135496 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance Arabic 1715 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sources in Tehran say that an official invitation issued to National Assembly Speaker Hasan al-Turabi to visit Iran has led to disagreements and has caused a crisis between rival blocs in Iran, namely the one led by 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Majlis speaker, and the other by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

A source close to the Hashemi-Rafsanjani bloc says that Nateq-Nuri was indiscreet in his invitation to al-Turabi. The Hashemi-Rafsanjani bloc sees the propaganda surrounding the invitation to al-Turabi as a move by hardliners to put Iran on a collision course with the United Nations after the Security Council imposed diplomatic sanctions on the National Islamic Front Party government. The sanctions include severe restrictions on diplomatic contacts with Sudanese officials.

Nateq-Nuri had earlier stated that Iran should support Sudan in its struggle against the forces of imperialism who control the United Nations. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iran does not intend to violate UN Security Council resolutions, but the spokesman did not state whether Iran will give al-Turabi a visa to enter Iran or not. [passage omitted]

## Tunisia

### Tunisia: Foreign Ministry Hails UN-Iraq Oil-for-Food Agreement

*LD2105152396 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisia has welcomed the agreement reached between the United Nations and Iraq on the oil-for-food deal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in which it said that the Tunisian government received with great satisfaction the news of the agreement signed between Iraq and the United Nations on the implementation of UN Resolution No 986 regarding the partial lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq. The statement added that Tunisia, while continuing to call for the respect of international legitimacy, considers the agreement a positive step to alleviate the suffering of the brotherly Iraqi people.

## Kuwait

### Kuwait: UN-Iraq Oil-for-Food Agreement Welcomed

*LD2105195096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1817 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 May (KUNA) — Kuwait today welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and Iraq in implementation of Security Council Resolution 986.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in a statement released by the Foreign Ministry, said "the agreement reached will positively secure the fraternal Iraqi people's food and medicinal needs."

Shaykh Sabah hailed the continued efforts exerted by the UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Hans Corell, the leader of the UN secretariat negotiating delegation, and the continued support of Security Council members, particularly the permanent members, to reach this agreement.

Shaykh Sabah also stressed the importance of Iraq implementing all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, at the forefront of which are those related to the release of the POW's and detainees. [passage omitted]

### Kuwait: Diplomatic Relations Established With Mozambique

*LD2005174496 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1632 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 20 May [KUNA] — Kuwait and the Republic of Mozambique signed an agreement here today establishing diplomatic and consular relations.

The agreement was signed by the Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and by Leonardo Simao, Mozambique minister of foreign affairs, whose visit to Kuwait started last 18 May and will end tomorrow. The signing of this agreement came at the end of a meeting held between Shaykh al-Sabah and Dr. Simao during which they discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

An official ministry of foreign affairs source told KUNA that the signing of the agreement was aimed at realizing the desires of the two countries to develop bilateral relations and stressing the need to implement the goals and principles of the UN Charter and proceeding from the two countries' eagerness to achieve peace and security in many parts of the world.

The source said that the Kuwaiti-Mozambican agreement to exchange diplomatic and consular representation was based on principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, noninterference in the other country's internal affairs and the achievement of mutual interests.

## Oman

### Oman: Oil Minister Expects Price Fall After Iraq Deal

*MM2105143196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 May 96 p 13*

[Interview with Omani Petroleum Minister Sa'id al-Shanfari by Khalid al-Madani in Medina; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Madani] The oil market is watching the UN-Iraqi oil-for-food talks. What effects on oil prices do you expect in the near and distant future?

[Al-Shanfari] Before answering that question I wish to point out that there is a surplus in the oil market at present although the atmosphere is quiet. That encourages demand for oil, but it is a known fact that there is a surplus. We are approaching summer. In summer consumption drops, and with the surplus and Iraq's entry into the market, the effect on the oil market will be considerable. As we know, oil-for-food talks are in progress between the United Nations and Iraq. If agreement is reached there will be 700,000 barrels a day [more] which is too much for the market. That is why the brothers in OPEC should act to find a solution because such a quantity would flood the market and lead to a drop of $1 or $2 [per barrel] in oil prices. I am confident that the brother oil ministers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] will not allow prices to plummet because the revenues of most of these states depend on oil. I have great faith in God and in the brothers in OPEC and I wish all efforts to stabilize prices and production every success. I repeat that an Iraqi production of 700,000 barrels is not an easy or simple matter particularly as countries outside OPEC also produce oil. It is known that the annual additional uptake capacity is over 1 million barrels, most of which goes to states outside OPEC, so if 700,000 barrels are added, that will undoubtedly have a great impact on the oil market.

[Al-Madani] Oil production requires large investments. What are the joint Gulf projects in the oil industry whether in the field of production or refining?

[Al-Shanfari] Actually, I will give you an answer which I hope will not be taken by some as criticism. As a

Gulf citizen I say that there is constant cooperation and coordination between the Gulf states especially in the fields of oil and gas, and there is exchange of information, but between us oil ministers there has been no joint work to speak of. There is coordination, consultation, and exchange of information but as far as joint projects are concerned we are still lagging. We hope that one day we will have joint work at the level of Gulf states in the oil sphere. I believe that we do need some joint work to serve our states.

[Al-Madani] What is Oman's oil revenue from current gross output and what steps are you taking to diversify the Omani sources of revenue?

[Al-Shanfari] We still largely depend on oil, to the tune of 60 percent, but we are making effects to diversify sources of revenue through major projects such as liquid gas projects and we are now looking for markets and, God willing, we will find them. Let me tell you that the Sultanate of Oman proceeds steadily and does not wish to embark on unnecessary projects because we in the Sultanate focus on and our revenue is geared toward the local economy and the development of the country. We try to guide some investments at home. As I said to you, there are various projects which will be announced in time.

[Al-Madani] What, in your view, are the factors which determine oil production quotas, and how important is OPEC and how useful are its agreements?

[Al-Shanfari] OPEC is very important and it plays a part in determining the production quotas and stabilizing prices. I believe that OPEC is indispensable to the oil producing countries. I am an OPEC supporter.

True, in the past OPEC was an organization which scared the economic world but now it is a wise organization with a sensible policy advocating sensible things with no harm to producers or others. That is the policy it is pursuing now. I cannot say that OPEC is now in a weak position because of the weak oil market. OPEC is still in a strong position and there is still demand for oil on the market reaching 25 million barrels which might increase in the coming months. The more demand there is for oil, the more able OPEC is to allocate quotas. I wish OPEC success because it is indispensable. Without OPEC the current prices would have been unsettled and different, particularly as many states outside OPEC produce oil. Had it not been for OPEC's quota system the situation would have been different, especially as some states are capable of producing more than the allotted quota, but the quota is a commitment to a limited production. The demand for oil could increase any day and might reach 2.2 million [as published], but some states which are producing now might reach a point where they would not be able to produce and the increase in demand would be absorbed within OPEC.

[Al-Madani] How do you view the future of the Gulf economy in the light of the political and economic conditions and changes in the world?

[Al-Shanfari] We are optimistic about the future of the Gulf economy in the coming years for many reasons including the ability of the GCC states to complete most of the main infrastructures, which will create an encouraging atmosphere for investment in many production projects in the private sector under a policy which gives the private sector the main role in some economic development plans. The GCC states have been able to shift from the phase of financial abundance to the phase of balanced growth to reduce dependence on oil as a main source of national income. Some giant industrial projects have been launched, especially in the field of petrochemicals and byproducts, with high quality standards matching similar foreign projects. On the level of joint Gulf economic action, the GCC leaders have unanimously agreed that there is a need for a qualitative shift in joint Gulf action to ensure more coordination, integration, and interlinking, and to develop the concepts of joint economic work in accordance with a long-term strategy and assessment of the experiment in the interest of joint Gulf action.

[Al-Madani] The OPEC states are no longer the sole controller of the oil market. There are states outside OPEC playing a significant part in the oil output. How do you view the future of the dialogue between OPEC and non-OPEC countries?

[Al-Shanfari] Actually, there is serious cooperation between the OPEC states and the states outside OPEC, especially the northern states. That is why the main burden is now on OPEC because it is the body capable of doing something. I can say that the states outside OPEC cannot respond 100 percent to cooperation and coordination with the OPEC states. We totally depend on the brothers in OPEC and wish them success, and we urge the states outside OPEC to cooperate and respond, bearing in mind that some years ago the first meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers was held. Many issues and concerns of the oil states were discussed and there were some good ideas and decisions. That is in addition to the dialogue between the GCC states and the industrial states. These contacts have so far produced no results but we hope that in the near future there will be a suitable solution for all states. We know that the market now is not controlled by the producing states because the oil market is now in New York where they sell and buy more than the world's output. They control the market and they control some of the producing states outside OPEC.

As I said previously, the North Sea production only came into play when the prices reached $40. I commend the wise policy of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz which had warned against excessive prices, and now we see the result. When the prices reached $36.4 per barrel the North Sea states began to develop their oil fields and they now control and have contributed to the drop in prices, especially on the New York market. Some states are aiding that. We cannot believe that production at one point reached 35 million barrels a day and dropped to 14 million barrels. It has now risen to 25 million barrels and is likely to rise particularly in view of the annual increase in demand of around 1.2 million barrels, but most of that is taken up by states outside OPEC. We hope that demand will increase in the coming years because we believe that North Sea production will stop. We hope demand will increase because that would be in the interest of the OPEC states.

[Al-Madani] The petrochemical industries, in Saudi Arabia in particular and the Arab homeland in general, started in vast sectors with the production of various petrochemicals. How do you view the petrochemical industry in the Arab homeland and how can we tackle its marketing problems?

[Al-Shanfari] The country with the most advanced petrochemical industry is Saudi Arabia which has very great petrochemical capabilities. For the petrochemical industry to advance on the basis of Arab states plans there must be some coordination between Arab markets and at Arab level in relation to the foreign world. So far most major industrial states mostly do not rely on petrochemicals in their industries. They seem to depend on imports. That is what we notice now in the current trends of the industrial states. We hope the Arab industrial states will focus on the use of the petrochemical industry and products because of the rewards that industry offers. As regards the GCC, there is a coordination committee working between these states to vitalize that aspect and we hope it will produce good results. There is coordination between the industrial states which are trying to obstruct the developing states in that field. I believe that dialogue and understanding between the industrial states, the Arab states, and the GCC will produce good results in the interest of development of that industry for the better.

[Al-Madani] The Gulf budgets are known to depend mostly on expected oil revenues. Will there be some Gulf coordination in the light of the expected developments in world markets?

[Al-Shanfari] There is coordination between the GCC states and at the level of GCC heads of state. All that coordination focuses on protection of the revenues of these states. As known, the important states in OPEC — that is Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Qatar — are very influential in OPEC and are considered to be the dynamo because without these Gulf states in OPEC and the GCC prices would rise and the situation would be different from what it is now. I can say that there is a definite desire in all the Gulf states and at the level of heads of state, foreign ministers, and oil and economy ministers, for more coordination and cooperation as well as an endeavor to stabilize prices because as I said before, we rely on God and oil.

[Al-Madani] According to economic reports, the tax on energy in some European states will be detrimental to the Gulf oil revenues. What efforts have the Gulf states made so far in this connection?

[Al-Shanfari] Some major meetings have been held between us as GCC as well as meetings between GCC representatives and the industrial states. The energy tax is an existing reality. Let me point out that in some industrial states a barrel of oil is sold for $120 at the gas stations and for $15 at some other gas stations [figures as published]. That has cause a drop in consumption. The question is, to what extent can there be agreement between us as oil producers and the industrial states. So far there is nothing, no agreements, and the industrial states are pursuing their aims and policies of imposing taxes not just on oil but on various products. The energy tax is a sound phrase serving wrong objectives in the interest of the industrial states which plan and decide. If the industrial states had the oil the situation would have been different. If we take a simple look at other industries such as car and other industries w would find that their prices have risen, but not oil. Oil prices have tended to drop. We hope they will improve and become reasonable because its current price of $15 is equivalent to the value of one apple or orange in Tokyo. We hope there will be coordination between the Gulf states and the other OPEC states on this matter, particularly as the entry of Iraq into the market is considered to be a sword hanging over the OPEC states. If there is no coordination between the OPEC states for the absorption of what Iraqi produces, be it 700,000 barrels or something else, there will be an oil surplus. The brothers in the GCC should move to find a solution to stabilize the situation because with Iraq's entry oil prices will drop by $1 or $2 a barrel. I repeat that the brothers in the GCC should help stabilize prices.

[Al-Madani] What is the way to face the world economic blocs? Is there an urgent need for a Gulf common market and are there obstacles?

[Al-Shanfari] There are now many world economic blocs, and facing all of them is not as difficult as some people imagine. It requires solidarity, joint action, and coordination. That in itself is not difficult. The Arab states should work for that because, united, the Arab nation would have its weight in this world particularly as most Arab states have major resources capable of competing.

As regards a Gulf common market, I believe there is an urgent need for such a market and I believe that there are no obstacles because we are in one and the same Gulf framework seeking to establish strong economic unity in the Gulf. We therefore hope to see such a market emerge in reality.

## Saudi Arabia

### Saudi Arabia: Paper Disputes Prince Downplaying Threats to U.S. Citizens

*MM2105154796 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 May 96 p 15*

[Unattributed article: "Threats to U.S. Citizens in Saudi Arabia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz downplayed the seriousness of threats to U.S. interests, companies, and diplomatic missions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, saying that his government will not be influenced by them and will apply God's law to the four detainees accused of involvement in the Riyadh bombing of the U.S. military experts' headquarters that killed five. This downplaying was a response to the U.S. State Department's advisory to U.S. citizens to exercise caution.

No doubt Prince Sultan, number two in the Kingdom after his brother Prince 'Abdallah, the heir apparent who is now at the forefront following the illness of Saudi monarch King Fahd, has information to support his viewpoint. It is, however, dangerous to prejudge such a precarious issue. What would the Saudi Government's, and particularly Prince Sultan's, position be, if it became clear that such threats are serious and that some people can effectively carry them out on the ground by means of "terrorist" operations?

Nobody would dispute the effectiveness of the Saudi security measures that have succeeded in organizing a peaceful pilgrimage season, free of any disturbances, have dealt in earnest with Iran's declared intentions of organizing marches, and have succeeded in apprehending the four suspects in the Riyadh blast, which, in itself, is a great achievement. This, however, does not hide the fact that there is strong opposition to the U.S. presence in the Kingdom and to some of the policies adopted. This opposition could resort to unlawful methods such as bombing and shelling, due to the fact that it is denied political participation.

Opposition to the U.S. presence is not limited to Saudi Arabia. Instead, it can be found in most Arab states and has increased as a result of the U.S. political bias in favor of Israeli massacres in Lebanon and the occupied Arab lands. Therefore, it should be taken seriously and used as a means of exerting pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it refrain from adopting such provocative policies.

We do not condone the use of violence against the U.S. community in our Arab region, neither do we hold innocent people responsible for their country's stupid racist policies against Arabs. We believe, however, that it is our right to ask these people, in a civilized manner and through legal channels, to understand the Arab viewpoint and to exert any type of pressure on the U.S. decisionmaker to force him to put an end to the humiliating and debasing practices against Arabs.

We do not believe that the U.S. citizen who lives in an Arab country, enjoys its wealth, and sees how his oil, industrial, and even military companies are reaping millions in profits as a result of their commercial operations in the region, would approve and support his administration's policy in blockading Iraq, Libya, and Sudan, absolving the Hebrew state of responsibility for killing 200 Lebanese in unjustified raids, and using all trump cards in the Security Council to block any condemnation or sanctions against it. The Arabs are hoping to have good and close relations with Washington. Prior to the U.S. involvement in supporting Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and the rape of Palestine, Arabs and Americans were not enemies. On the contrary, for Arabs the United States was the country of freedoms and democracy, and for many years we were grateful for its unwavering position in the United Nations on the tripartite aggression against the Arab nation, demanding the withdrawal of French, British, and Israeli forces from the Suez canal and the Sinai desert.

The problem is that the United States wants a one-way relationship, pillaging our wealth, availing itself cheaply of our oil, and establishing bases on our land. It returns the favor by supporting all forms of Israeli aggression against us and making Israel the regional superpower controlling the region, while the others have to follow, obey its orders, and sing its praises.

Because of these policies, anger against the Americans in the region will linger, and U.S. interests will continue to face various threats. That is why we disagree when Prince Sultan downplays the threats, and agree with the U.S. State Department on the need to take them seriously. That department is well aware of the extent of the injustice inflicted on the Arabs as a result of its rulers' support for Israel and for its aggression, and acts accordingly. It remains to be said that Arab officials should also be aware of that.

### Saudi Arabia: Press—Easing of Iraq Embargo Not Lifting of Sanctions

*NC2205105796 Paris AFP in English*
*0902 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 22 (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is suffering from "delusions of grandeur" that for years made him spurn a UN oil-for-food deal which he has now been forced to accept, a Saudi newspaper said Wednesday [22 May].

"Saddam's delusions of grandeur blocked the adoption for a long time of resolution 986 and now the Iraqi regime wants to turn its deal with the UN into a victory it was forced to sign," the AL-YAWM daily said.

Iraq had rejected 986 and similar previous resolutions, charging they would violate Iraqi sovereignty.

The government of Saudi Arabia, the most powerful Arab Gulf state, has not yet reacted to the deal signed on Monday to allow Iraq to export two billion dollars of oil over six months in return for food and medicine under strict control.

"International pressures forced Saddam's regime to conclude the deal. The continuation of these pressures will surely force the Iraqi leadership to meet all UN resolutions," it said.

"Iraq must understand that the easing of the embargo does not mean the lifting of the sanctions," imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, it said.

AL-RIYADH newspaper said that in "agreeing to sign the accord, Saddam realized that the reality was much stronger than the manipulations." "Has he become bankrupt to accept the UN conditions, or has he finally realized that his maneuvering are pointless," it said.

The Gulf Arab states of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates both welcomed the deal.

In Abu Dhabi, the UAE foreign ministry said in a statement published Wednesday that the government welcomed the deal "which would ease the suffering of the Iraqi people. The UAE said it hoped it would "encourage Iraq to comply with all UN resolutions linked to the Gulf war."

### Saudi Arabia: Airline Resumes Flights to Yemen After 5 Years

*LD2105164996 Riyadh SPA in Arabic*
*1430 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 May (SPA) — In implementation of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general, who is also chairman of the board of administration of Saudi Arabia's airlines, the Saudi airline "Saudia" will resume scheduled flights to the Yemeni capital Sanaa on 27 May after a break of five years.

Farid Badri, general director of the Middle East and Gulf region at the Saudi airlines, said the resumption of "Saudi flights to Yemen came within the airline's keenness to extend its flights to various brotherly and neighborly countries and consolidate the good relations linking the kingdom with Yemen, as well as, due to the increasing number of passengers moving from the kingdom to Yemen and vice versa and for the existence of a large number of Yemeni brothers working in the kingdom." [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### Yemen: Foreign Ministers To Sign Accord in Island Dispute With Eritrea

*BR2005134296 Paris AFP in French*
*1208 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, 21 May (AFP) — In Paris on Tuesday [21 May] the foreign ministers of four states bordering on the Red Sea will sign the agreement in principle, made possible by France, which will pave the way for submitting the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea over the Hanish Islands to the arbitration of an international jurisdiction.

The document drafted by France will be signed officially by Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani and his Eritrean counterpart, Petros Solomon.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin will sign the document in a "witness" capacity.

"The agreement in principle is the right way to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and arbitration is likely to guarantee safety and stability in the Red Sea and secure sea traffic in this region of vital interest for world trade," Mr. al-Iryani said before leaving for Paris. [passage omitted]

## Yemen: 'Agreement in Principle' Signed With Eritrea

*BR2105111596 Paris AFP in French
1051 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 21 May (AFP) — Yemen and Eritrea signed an agreement in principle in Paris on Tuesday [21 May]. Under the terms of the agreement, the conflict between the two countries over the strategic Hanish Island archipelago will be referred to the arbitration of an international court.

## Yemen: Signing of 'Agreement in Principle' With Eritrea Reported

*JN2105193296 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1731 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemen and Eritrea signed an agreement in principle at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris at noon today on the existing dispute between the two countries. The agreement was signed for Yemen by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and for Eritrea by Foreign Minister Petros Solomon. Signing the agreement as witnesses were French Foreign minister Herve de Charette, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin. Representatives for the UN secretary general, the Arab League, and the Organization of African Unity attended the signing ceremony.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Government to French President Jacques Chirac and the French Government. He said: We are meeting in your dear country to celebrate the defusing of a crisis. We are certain that had it not been for the important French role, which was preceded by good offices by Ethiopia, Egypt, and the UN secretary general, we would not have been able to sign this agreement with our colleagues in Eritrea.

He added: It is a good omen that we in the Republic of Yemen celebrate our national day on 22 May, the day of the declaration of the Republic of Yemen on 1990. With the declaration of the Republic of Yemen, a hotbed of tension and dispute that lasted for a quarter-of-a century during the Cold War era between the East and West disappeared.

## Iraq: 'Text' of Memorandum of Understanding on Oil-for-Food Talks

*JN2205081296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—Iraq and the United Nations yesterday, 20 May 1996, signed a memorandum of understanding on the formula of oil in exchange for food, medicine, and the basic needs of the Iraqi people. The following is the text of the memorandum of understanding:

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Iraq and the UN General Secretariat on Implementing Security Council Resolution 986 for 1995.

Part One

General Rules:

1. The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to guarantee the effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 986 for 1995, known hereafter as the Resolution.

2. The distribution plan, mentioned in Paragraph 8-A of the Resolution and which should be approved by the UN secretary general, constitutes an important factor in the implementation of this resolution.

3. There is nothing in this memorandum that will encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. The memorandum of understanding's provisions are confined to the implementation of the Resolution. Therefore, it does not set a precedent in any form. It is also understood that the arrangements included in the memorandum of understanding are an exceptional and temporary measure.

Part Two

Distribution Plan:

5. The Government of Iraq pledges to guarantee effective and fair distribution of medicine, medical equipment, food, and items and supplies to meet basic civilian needs, known hereafter as humanitarian supplies, to Iraqis throughout the country. These supplies shall be purchased with revenues from the sale of Iraqi oil and oil products.

6. For this purpose, the Government of Iraq shall prepare a distribution plan that shows the detailed measures that shall be followed by the competent Iraqi authorities to ensure this distribution. The present system for distributing such supplies, the current needs, and humanitarian conditions in the various governorates of Iraq should be taken into consideration. Iraq's sovereignty and its people's territorial integrity are also honored. The plan includes a classified list of the supplies and commodities that Iraq intends to purchase and import for this purpose for a six-month period.

7. The distribution plan in the three northern governorates Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah shall be prepared in accordance with Annex 1, which is an integral part of this memorandum of understanding.

8. The distribution plan shall be presented for the UN secretary general for approval. If the secretary general is convinced that the plan guarantees fair distribution of humanitarian supplies for the Iraqi citizens throughout the country, he will inform the Government of Iraq of this.

9. It is understood by both parties of this memorandum that the secretary general will not be in a position to present the report required in accordance with Paragraph 13 of the resolution if he does not approve the plan prepared by the Government of Iraq.

10. Once the secretary general approves the plan, he shall send a copy of the classified list of supplies and commodities, which constitutes part of the plan, to the Security Council committee that was established in accordance with Resolution 661 for 1990 on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. This committee will hereafter be known as Committee 661 for Notification.

11. Once the plan is in effect, any party to this memorandum of understanding can propose to the other party a study to amend the plan if the first party believes that such an amendment will improve the fair and effective distribution of humanitarian supplies.

Part Three

Opening an Escrow Account and Auditing the Account:

12. After consulting with the Government of Iraq, the UN secretary general shall choose a major international bank and open an escrow account there, as described in Paragraph 7 of the Resolution. This account shall be identified as the UN Account on Iraq and shall later be called the "Iraq Account." The UN secretary general shall negotiate the terms of this account with the bank and keep the Government of Iraq fully informed of his procedures in choosing the bank and opening the account. All transactions and deductions stipulated in Paragraph 8 of the Resolution shall be made from the Iraq Account, which shall be handled in accordance with the financial rules and regulations followed by the United Nations.

13. The Iraqi authorities may appoint a senior banking official to coordinate with the UN General Secretariat on all banking affairs that concern the Iraq Account.

14. In accordance with UN financial regulations, the Iraq Account shall be audited by a board of independent foreign public auditors, as stipulated by financial regulations. The board of auditors shall issue periodic reports about the auditing of the account's financial statements. These reports shall be submitted by the board to the secretary general, who shall present them to Committee 661 and the Government of Iraq.

15. There is nothing in this memorandum that can be construed as constituting UN responsibility for any purchases by the Government of Iraq or any agents who work on its behalf, in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution.

Part Four:

Selling Oil and Oil Products of Iraqi Origin.

16. Oil and oil products of Iraqi origin shall be exported via the Karkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline through Turkey and via al-Bakr oil terminal. Committee 661 shall monitor exports via these two outlets to ensure they are in accordance with the Resolution. The cost of transportation in Turkey shall be covered by additional amounts of oil, as stipulated in the Resolution and in accordance with the procedures that will be established by Committee 661.

17. Every operation to export oil and oil products that originate in Iraq must be approved by Committee 661.

18. Detailed provisions on selling Iraqi oil and oil products are contained in Annex 2, which is an integral part of this memorandum.

Part Five

Purchase Procedures and Confirmation of Arrival of Goods:

19. The medicine, medical equipment, food, and supplies for the needs of the Iraqi people all over the country that are mentioned in Paragraph 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991, and in line of Paragraph 20 of this memorandum, shall be purchased by the Iraqi Government through normal commercial procedures, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the measures of Committee 661.

20. The humanitarian supplies for the three northern governorates Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah shall be purchased as specified in the distribution plan, in accordance with Annex 1.

21. Except for what is mentioned in Paragraph 20, the Iraqi Government will directly conclude contracts with the suppliers to arrange to purchase the supplies and make the suitable contracting arrangements.

22. Any exports to Iraq will be carried out at the request of the Iraqi Government on the basis of Paragraph 8-A. Accordingly, the exporting countries provide all relevant documents, including the contracts, for all the commodities that will be exported in accordance with this resolution to Committee 661, which will take the appropriate measures according to its procedural rules. It is understood that suppliers will only be paid from the Iraq Account for items listed and classified in the second part of this memorandum. In case of extraordinary circumstances, requests for exporting additional items can be presented to Committee 661 for consideration.

23. As mentioned above, Committee 661 will take steps concerning requests to export goods to Iraq, in accordance with its present measures. These measures are subject to future amendments, in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Resolution. Committee 661 will notify the Iraqi Government, the countries that make the requests, and the secretary general of the measures it will take on the requests.

24. After Committee 661 takes the measures concerning the requests for exports, in accordance with its procedural rules, the Central Bank of Iraq will ask the bank that is holding the Iraq Account to open irrevocable letters of credit to the beneficiaries. Such requests will be referred by the bank holding the Iraq Account to the UN General Secretariat to approve the opening of the letters of credit by the bank and to allow payments from the Iraq Account when the appropriate documents are presented. The letter of credit should stipulate that, as a condition of payment, the documents demanded by Committee 661 from the bank that holds the Iraq Account, including the confirmation mentioned in Paragraph 25. The United Nations, in consultation with the Iraqi Government, will formulate a clause that will be included in all purchase requests, contracts, and letters of credit on the terms of payment from the Iraq Account. The party that holds the letter of credit will bear the costs inside Iraq, and all costs outside Iraq will be borne by the beneficiary.

25. The arrival of goods purchased under the plan must be confirmed by independent inspectors, who shall be appointed by the secretary general. Payment shall not be made until the inspectors have provided the secretary general with documented confirmation that the exported goods have actually arrived in Iraq.

26. The independent inspectors can be posted at relevant Iraqi points of entry, customs zones, or any other areas where they will be able to perform their tasks, as specified in Paragraph 27 of this part. The United Nations shall determine the location and number of

the points where the inspectors shall be posted after consultation with the Government of Iraq.

27. The independent inspectors shall endorse the arrival of shipments by comparing the documents pertaining to the goods that have actually arrived in Iraq, such as bills of lading, other shipping documents, or the manifest of goods, with the export documents that have been issued by Committee 661. The inspectors are empowered to undertake any other tasks that they consider essential for this endorsement, such as checking the quantity of goods by weighing, counting, or a simple visual inspection. The inspection may also include physical inspection, sampling, and laboratory testing, if necessary.

28. The inspectors shall inform the secretary general and Committee 661 of all nonprocedural aspects, if the problem is not over ordinary commercial practices — such as a shortage in the quantity of goods. In such a case, the Government of Iraq and Committee 661 shall be notified while the process of ordinary commercial practices, such as demands, is in progress. However, if the matter is more serious, the inspectors shall hold the shipment concerned pending further instructions from Committee 661.

29. Regarding the export of spare parts and equipment to Iraq for the secure operation of the Karkuk-Yurmutalik pipeline in Iraq, the orders placed by the national government with the supplier shall be submitted to Committee 661, which shall study and approve them according to its procedures.

30. If Committee 661 approves an order in accordance with Paragraph 29, the provisions of Paragraph 24 shall apply to it. However, since the supplier expects to be paid from future oil revenues, as stipulated in Paragraph 10 of the resolution, revenues in this amount shall be deposited in the Iraq Account. The bank that holds the Iraq Account shall issue an irrevocable letter of credit in which it shall explain that payment shall be made only when sufficient funds are available in the Iraq Account and approval has been obtained from the General Secretariat of the United Nations.

31. The documented endorsement requirement stipulated in this part shall also apply to the spare parts and equipment mentioned in Paragraph 30 [as received].

Part Six

Distribution of Humanitarian Supplies Purchased According to the Distribution Plan:

32. Humanitarian supplies shall be distributed by the Government of Iraq according to the distribution plan referred to in Part Two of this memorandum. The Government of Iraq shall keep UN monitors informed of the implementation of the plan and the activities it carries out.

33. The distribution of humanitarian supplies in the three northern governorates, Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah, shall be carried out by the humanitarian program of UN agencies on behalf of the Government of Iraq according to the distribution plan and Annex 1, with due respect to Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Part Seven

Monitoring Fair Distribution of Humanitarian Supplies and Confirming Its Effectiveness:

General Rules:

34. The monitoring shall be carried out by UN officials in Iraq and under the general administration of the Humanitarian Affairs Department at UN headquarters in New York, in accordance with the terms listed here. The monitoring shall apply to the distribution of humanitarian supplies financed in accordance with the measures specified in the Resolution.

35. The purposes of UN monitoring are:

A. To confirm the fair distribution of humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi population in all parts of the country.

B. To ensure the effectiveness of this process and determine whether the available resources meet the humanitarian needs of Iraq.

Monitoring Procedures:

36: When monitoring fair and effective distribution, UN staff will take, among other things, the following measures:

Foodstuffs:

37: Monitoring the fair distribution of food shall be based on information collected from local markets all over Iraq and the Ministry of Trade, as well as information available to the United Nations and its specialized agencies on food imports and surveys conducted by UN staff. The monitoring shall also include monitoring the quantity and price of foodstuffs imported in accordance with the Resolution.

38. To provide regular and updated monitoring of extremely pressing needs, a survey conducted by UN agencies, in cooperation with the appropriate Iraqi ministries, shall be the basis for continued monitoring of the nutritional situation of the Iraqi population. This survey shall take into consideration public health statements prepared by the Iraqi Health Ministry and the relevant UN agencies.

Medical Supplies and Equipment:

39.Monitoring the distribution of medical supplies and equipment shall focus on the current system of distribution and storage. This also includes visits to hospitals, medical centers, and storage facilities. This monitoring will seek guidance from the health statistics issued by the Ministry of Health and the surveys carried out by the relevant UN agencies.

Water Appliances and Equipment—Sewage System:

40. Monitoring the distribution of water appliances and equipment for the sewage system shall focus on ensuring they are used for their intended purposes. This shall be verified by gathering information on the spread of waterborne diseases and by examining the quality of water by visiting water and sewage facilities by the appropriate UN representatives. The United Nations relies in this regard on all related indicators.

Other Materials and Equipment:

41. Regarding the materials and equipment that do not fall under the three abovementioned categories, particularly the materials and equipment needed to rehabilitate the infrastructure that is part of the basic needs, monitoring shall focus on ensuring the arrival of these materials and equipment to the sites defined in advance, according to the distribution plan. Also, it must be decided whether the materials and equipment are sufficient and meet the basic needs of the Iraqi citizens.

Coordination and Cooperation:

42. The UN monitoring activities shall be coordinated by the Humanitarian Affairs Directorate at the UN Headquarters in New York and monitoring is carried out by UN personnel. The exact number of personnel shall be decided by the United Nations, taking practical needs into consideration. The Government of Iraq shall be consulted in this regard.

43. The Iraqi authorities shall give the required assistance to the UN personnel to facilitate the implementation of their tasks. UN personnel shall cooperate with the competent Iraqi authorities.

44. In light of the importance of the tasks that shall be carried out by the UN employees in accordance with the provisions of this part of the memorandum, these employees shall enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement to accomplish their tasks, have access to the documents that they find relevant to their work after discussing the subject with the competent Iraqi authorities, and carry out the contacts that they deem necessary.

45. For the successful implementation of the resolution, the following provisions on privileges and immunities shall apply:

A. Employees of the United Nations and any of its specialized agencies undertaking tasks pertinent to the implementation of the resolution shall enjoy the privileges and immunities that apply to them under Articles 5 and 7 of the Agreement on UN Privileges and Immunities or Articles 6 and 8 of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies, to which Iraq is a signatory.

B. The independent inspectors, technical experts, and other specialists who will be appointed by the UN secretary general or the heads of specialized agencies to undertake tasks pertinent to the implementation of the resolution and whose names will be submitted to the Government of Iraq shall enjoy the privileges and immunities given to experts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies under Paragraph 6 of the Agreement on UN Privileges and Immunities or the pertinent annexes of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities for Specialized Agencies respectively.

C. Persons who undertake, on behalf of the United Nations, contractual services pertinent to the implementation of the resolution and whose names will be communicated to the Government of Iraq shall enjoy the same privileges and immunities that are given to UN-appointed experts under Paragraph B above.

46. In addition to the above, the employees, experts, and persons mentioned in Paragraph 45 shall have the right to enter and leave Iraq without any hindrance. They shall be granted visas gratis and as quickly as possible by the Iraqi authorities.

47. It is also understood that the United Nations and its specialized agencies will have free entry into and exit from Iraq without any delay or hindrance of all machines, equipment, and vehicles that may be required to implement the resolution and that the Government of Iraq agrees to permit temporary entry of such equipment free of duty or any other fees.

48. Paragraph 16 of the Resolution governs any issue that pertains to privileges and immunities, including the safety and protection of the United Nations and its employees, that is not covered by the provisions of this part.

Part Nine

Consultations:

49. The UN General Secretariat and the Government of Iraq shall make the necessary consultations on the most effective means to implement this memorandum.

Part 10

Final Clauses:

50. After it is signed, this memorandum shall go into effect on the day Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Resolution are implemented. It shall remain in effect until the end of the 180-day period referred to in Paragraph 3 of the Resolution.

51. Until the memorandum goes into effect, the United Nations and the Government of Iraq shall consider it temporarily valid.

Signed in New York on 20 May 1996 in two original copies in the English language.

For the Government of Iraq:
'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari
Ambassador
Head of the Iraqi delegation
For the United Nations:
Hans Corell
UN Undersecretary for Legal Affairs

Annex 1

1. To ensure the effective implementation of Paragraph 8(B) of the Resolution, the following arrangements shall be implemented regarding the Iraqi Governorates of Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah, with due respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the principle of fair distribution of humanitarian supplies throughout the country.

2. The UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Program shall collect and analyze information pertinent to the humanitarian needs of the three northern governorates. Based on this information, the program shall determine the humanitarian supplies needed by the three northern governorates, discuss these needs with the Government of Iraq, and then include them in the distribution plan. When preparing estimates on food needs, the program shall take into consideration all the relevant circumstances in the three northern governorates and the rest of the country to ensure fair distribution. Rehabilitation needs in the three northern governorates shall receive proper attention.

3. The Government of Iraq and the program shall conduct discussions within one week of the secretary general's endorsement of the distribution plan to enable the program to determine the method of purchasing humanitarian supplies for the three northern governorates in the most effective way. These discussions shall be guided by the following considerations: the bulk of the purchases, including foodstuffs and medicine, will be made by the Government of Iraq, which is probably the most cost-effective means of to purchase these items. As for other supplies related to basic civilian needs that are specifically required by the three northern governorates, it is probably more appropriate to purchase them through the UN system, in light of the technical aspects that relate to their proper purpose.

4. As soon as the Government of Iraq, in response to a letter from the program, has purchased and delivered the items, the cost of the commodities shall be deducted from the amount in the Iraq Account allocated to program.

5. The humanitarian supplies, which will be distributed in the three northern governorates by the program, shall be delivered to depots in these governorates. These supplies can be delivered by the Government of Iraq or the program, as appropriate, to the warehouses in Karkuk and Mosul. These warehouses shall be run by the program, and the Government of Iraq shall guarantee the issuance of customs clearances and administrative certificates to ensure safe and swift transportation of these supplies to the three northern governorates.

6. The program shall be responsible for the storage, handling, transportation, and fair distribution of humanitarian supplies in the three northern governorates. The program shall keep the Government of Iraq informed of the distribution.

7. The program shall use, whenever possible and when it is more economical in terms of cost, local distribution mechanisms similar to the ones available throughout Iraq to effectively reach the citizens. In accordance with this arrangement, those who receive the supplies shall pay the fees for domestic transportation, handling, and distribution, as is the case in other parts of the country. The program shall guarantee that the special needs of displaced people, refugees, hospital patients, and other people who are weak and need additional nutrition will be met. The program shall keep the Government of Iraq informed of this.

8. The program shall verify that the humanitarian supplies and equipment are used for their intended purposes by visiting sites and gathering data. The program shall inform the Humanitarian Affairs Directorate at the UN Headquarters in New York and the Government of Iraq of any violations monitored by the program.

Annex 2

1. The country or buyer authorized by Committee 661 to purchase Iraqi oil shall present a request for handling and approval to the committee. The request will contain the relevant contractual documents on the sale of oil and oil byproducts required by the proposed purchase order of Iraqi oil and oil byproducts and endorsed by the Iraqi

Government or the State Organization for Marketing Oil, SOMO, on behalf of the Iraqi Government.

This endorsement can take place by sending a copy of the contract to Committee 661. The request should include the details of the purchase price at a fair market price, the method of export, the opening of a letter of credit against the Iraq Account and any other essential information required by the committee. The sale of oil and oil byproducts shall be covered by contracts. Copies of these contracts shall be included in the information that must be submitted along with the request to Committee 661. This information shall be forwarded the independent inspectors mentioned in Paragraph 4 of this annex. The contractual documents must contain the following information: the quantity and kind of oil and oil byproducts, the length of the contract, the letter of credit, the terms of payment, and the pricing mechanism. The oil pricing mechanism should include the following information: the price marker, the kind of pricing, and any amendments on transportation, quality, and pricing dates.

2. The oil purchaser's bank shall open irrevocable letters of credit, accompanied by an guarantee that the revenues of the letter of credit shall be deposited directly into the Iraq Account. For this purpose, the following sentence shall be added to each letter of credit: "The revenues of this letter of credit shall be paid, in an irrevocable manner, to the Iraq Account on condition that all the terms and provisions of this letter of credit be adhered to. The beneficiary shall pay all fees inside Iraq, while the purchaser shall pay all fees outside Iraq."

3. All these letters of credit must be addressed by the bank of the oil purchaser to the bank that holds Iraq's Account. The bank of the oil purchaser shall also ask the holder of the Iraq Account to verify the letters and send them to the Central Bank of Iraq to inform SOMO.

4. The selling of oil and oil products originating in Iraq shall be monitored by independent oil experts from the United Nations. These experts shall be appointed by the UN secretary general to assist Committee 661. Oil exports shall be monitored by independent examining agents at the loading facilities in Jihan and al-Bakr Port or at the pipeline measurement station on the Iraqi-Turkish border, if Committee 661 so decides. The examination includes examining quantity and quality. The examining agents shall authorize loading after they receive confirmation from UN oil experts that the relevant contract was approved, and they shall submit a report to the United Nations to this effect.

5. The United Nations shall receive monthly reports from SOMO about the real quantity and the type of oil products exported in accordance with relevant sales contracts.

6. The UN General Secretariat and SOMO shall continue contacts. In particular, UN oil experts shall meet regularly with SOMO representatives to review market conditions and oil sales.

### Iraq: 'Text' of 'Aziz Letter to Butrus-Ghali

*JN2105184896 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1707 GMT 21 May 96*

["Text" of letter from Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali dated 19 May 1996—read by announcer; all dates as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, New York.

With regard to the telephone conversation between us yesterday, Sunday, 19 May 1996, in which you assured me that the text of the memorandum of understanding which was conveyed to us on 13 May 1996 was a final text and that you were prepared to sign it immediately upon the Iraqi side's agreement, I am pleased to inform you that instructions have been issued to the head of our delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, to sign on behalf of the Iraqi Government and with God's blessings, the memorandum of understanding which has been reached between our delegation and the UN General Secretariat delegation on the principles and measures on implementing the formula of oil for food, medicine, and humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

On this occasion, I would like to express gratitude for your personal efforts to reach this agreement on which talks were held over the past four months. The agreement which has been reached between us is in fact, as the memorandum of understanding says, a special and temporary arrangement. While realizing useful ends by way of alleviating the bitter suffering of our people who bore the harsh circumstances of the blockade over the past six years, this agreement will in effect and in terms of accurate calculations of its expected results, alleviate only a limited part of the suffering of the Iraqis, who number more than 21 million people. It is obvious to us and to all the fair-minded people in the international community that the Iraqi people's suffering will not end unless the entire blockade is lifted beginning with the first step along this road; namely, implementing paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 of 1991.

We hope that the implementation of this memorandum of understanding will be an initial step on the road to implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and the comprehensive lifting of the blockade and not an alternative to it or a means of postponing it. We hope that as a secretary General of the United Nations chosen by the international community to care for and protect people's rights and legitimate interests, the UN Charter, and the principles of international law, you will do everything you can to realize this human, legitimate aim.

Your excellency, Iraq has had substantive reservations on Resolution 986 of 1995—reservations of which Iraq informed your excellency, the UN Security Council members, and the entire international community. However, we have decided to positively respond to your call for dialogue which came in your letter dated 18 January 1996 with the aim of reaching arrangements to be agreed by the two sides in order to implement the formula of exchanging oil for Iraq's humanitarian needs.

Based on our belief in the principles of the Charter and our confidence that the United Nations is the international body which, according to the Charter, is entrusted with securing the people's legitimate rights, sovereignty, and prosperity, we confirmed during the negotiations our good intentions and sincere desire to cooperate with you and with the world organization. We also confirmed our respect for the principles of the Charter, the foundations of international law, and everything that is balanced and fair in terms of the relationship between states and the United Nations. Thanks to your understanding, cooperation, and the support of the good ones in the international community, a memorandum of understanding was arrived at.

In fact, our confidence in you and the United Nations and the principles of international law made us accept formulas and conditions contained in the memorandum which we hoped were not contained in it. However, we accepted them out of our hope that the world organization, under your leadership, will implement it in a fair and balanced way and seek guidance from the principles of the Charter.

We hope that you and your assistants and staff, whom you will choose to implement the memorandum of understanding in cooperation, coordination, and consultation with the Iraqi authorities will show concern for the principles of the Charter, the foundations of international law, and the principles of fairness and justice and to show the necessary respect for Iraq's sovereignty, the dignity of its people, security, and national unity. On our part, I stress to you that we will do the best we can to establish practical relations based on logic and fairness to implement all the procedures mentioned in the memorandum of understanding in a sincere and proper manner and in a way that would achieve the humanitarian objectives of the process and strengthen confidence and cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations. We hope this process will mark the beginning of a serious, constant effort to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people by lifting the comprehensive embargo imposed against them.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister
[Dated] Baghdad, 19 May 1996

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## Iraq: Al-Sahhaf—Rifkind Statements Unbalanced, Unwise

*JN2105193996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1834 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf described as unbalanced and unwise the statements REUTER attributed yesterday to Malcolm Rifkind, UK secretary of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement to INA today, al-Sahhaf added that these British statements constitute a continuation of the tendentious role the British Government played when it, along with the United States, illegally interfered in the negotiations between Iraq and the UN General Secretariat on the exchange of oil for food in order to preclude the achievement of an agreement, which drew strong criticism from the remaining members of the Security Council.

The Iraqi foreign minister went on to say that the agreement between Iraq and the UN General Secretariat unequivocally shows that Iraq does not hesitate to take positive stands in its relationship with the Security Council when the latter submits balanced and rational proposals that do not undermine the country's sovereignty, stability, and territorial integrity. This course reflects Iraq's principled policy on its relationship with the United Nations, al-Sahhaf noted.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that this course will continue to be acted upon, because it is the only policy that is in line with the provisions enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. Moreover, this course reflects the established conduct of world states as well as the principles of justice and fairness. It will not be affected by the statements of the British secretary of state for foreign affairs and other British officials, for that matter, which aim at obstructing the honest implementation of the prescribed commitments with a view to upholding policies hostile to Iraq that have nothing to do with the alleged concern to nurture international legitimacy.

The British secretary of state for foreign affairs said yesterday that the Iraq sanctions will remain in place as long as Iraq has not met the conditions provided for in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The British secretary added that it is difficult to conceive Iraq meeting such conditions as long as the Iraqi regime is in power.

### Iraq: Mas'ud Barzani-Led Party Welcomes Oil-for-Food Deal

*JN2105204196 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the signing of the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on Resolution 986, a spokesman for our party's [Mas'ud Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party] Political Bureau sent warm congratulations to the Kurdish and Iraqi peoples. The spokesman said the step is the beginning of a process to alleviate the suffering of the Kurdish and Iraqi peoples.

### Iraq: Oil Ministry Chief on Readiness To Sell Anywhere Except Israel

*NC2105131696 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 21 (AFP)—Iraq is prepared to export oil to any country except Israel after receiving the green light in its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations, an Iraqi petroleum official said here Tuesday [21 May].

"Iraq is ready to sell petrol to any nation in the world expect Israel, and it plans to participate from now on more actively in OPEC activities," the Iraqi oil ministry's general director Radwan al-Sa'di told AFP.

Al-Sa'di was taking part in a Cairo meeting of the executive bureau of the Organization of Arab Oil Exporting Countries (OAPEC), preparing the group's ministerial session to be held on Thursday.

"Contracts for sale will be made with companies, not countries," he said when asked if Iraq would agree to sell crude to the United States, adding that "no contracts have yet been reached."

He said that at the start of the day's session "all the OAPEC representatives congratulated Iraq" for the oil-for-food deal announced with the United Nations on Monday.

"And our brother representative from Kuwait (Sulayman al-'Umayni) did not object" to the gesture, al-Sa'di said.

The deal paves the way for the first Iraqi oil exports in six years when crushing sanctions were slapped on Baghdad for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The initial OAPEC session dealt only with "technical cooperation," and the "return of Iraq to the oil market was not be discussed."

OAPEC, created in 1968 and based in Kuwait, groups Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, which together provide a fourth of the world's crude supplies.

But unlike OPEC, OAPEC does not fix oil prices or set production quotas, limiting itself to Arab technical cooperation in the field.

### Iraq: Preliminary Contracts Reportedly Signed With French Firms

*BR2105130496 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 21 May 96 p 2*

[Report by Alain Baron: "French Companies Kept in Touch"]

[FBIS Translated Text] French businessmen did not wait for the embargo against Baghdad to be lifted. Since early April no less than three delegations have followed each other out to Iraq, the first representing Alcatel-Alsthom, the second the CNPF [National Council of French Employers], while a commercial office was opened there by the French-Iraqi board of trade and industry. An organization set up recently by General Jeannou Lacaze, a former chief of staff of the French Army and a major defender of the Iraqi cause. Furthermore, the latter feels encouraged by the speech given by Jacques Chirac in Cairo on 8 April, which he believes constituted a "turning point."

In fact the French president had been calling for Iraq to once again take up "the place it deserves in the international community." For General Lacaze the opening of this commercial office was a way of officially promising to "contribute toward strengthening the relations regarding industrial and economic cooperation" between the two countries which have had major trade links in the past.

"We are also thinking of the possibility of opening an office in Iraq," Total added, confirming that the company's executives frequently visit Iraq. Total is keenly interested, as is well known, in the very large oil field at Nahr Umar [name as published], while its competitor, Elf, has its eye on the Majnoun islands [name as published] oil field. For all that, since the embargo has not been completely lifted, until now there has only been talk of "plans."

Similar discretion reigns at Alcatel-Alsthom, which did not wish to comment on the "exploratory commercial contacts" it has made in recent weeks. Supposedly these contacts were aimed at "reestablishing contacts, the threads of the trust there used to be at a time when the Europeans had a good image," CNPF International's Director Thierry Courtaigne said. Courtaigne led a mission of 30 businessmen to Baghdad. This is not just a recent interest on the part of the CNPF for, as Thierry Courtaigne recalls, in 1991 the organization set up a crisis management group to sort out the fate of the people who had been expatriated after the Gulf War and the embargo, on the one hand, and to help the French companies committed to ongoing contracts in Iraq, on the other.

"The industrial and technological capabilities offered by the French broadly meet Iraq's needs," Thierry Courtaigne was proud to say. The list of companies participating in the trip organized by the CNPF is revealing with respect to the potential areas of French-Iraqi collaboration in the future, including as it does representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, the agro-foodstuffs industry (Danone), and the hospital equipment and automotive industries (Renault Industrial Vehicles). Some people maintain that Iraqi needs regarding trucks, a means of transport used a great deal in the country today but which is suffering from a cruel lack of maintenance and spare parts, are "tremendous." So there is talk of potential orders for 10,000 trucks in the near future, as soon as the political conditions are right.

However, according to people who know the country very well, numerous preliminary contracts have already been signed by France and Iraq, although there can be no question of revealing any more details for the time being!

The only remaining question which will be raised in due course concerns Iraq's financial capacity. Baghdad owes Paris approximately 20 billion francs [Fr] (Fr15 billion of national debt, Fr5 billion in the private industry), a sum dating from before the Gulf War. "The partial lifting of the oil embargo intended under the terms of UN Resolution 986 to finance just provisions and medical supplies, will not be sufficient to meet Iraq's needs," one Frenchman who has just returned from Baghdad said anxiously.

### Iraq: Oil Exports May Determine Impact on Prices

*MS2105110796 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 21 May 96 p 4*

[Report by Robert Corzine: "Oil Traders Weigh Impact Of Iraqi Sales"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Djakarta — Most oil traders and industry executives yesterday said they needed time to study the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on limited oil sales before assessing its likely long-term impact on world oil markets.

Although the markets yesterday shrugged off the deal, many assumed that the return of Iraqi crude would further depress short- term prices. Mr Joe Stanislaw, an analyst with Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris, estimated that over the next few months the deal could shave $1-$1.50 off the current price of around $18 for the benchmark Brent blend for July delivery.

But analysts also said that the way in which Iraqi crude would be exported would also determine its overall impact on prices. A key issue facing the industry is how the return of Iraqi crude oil, even in limited amounts of perhaps 600,000 to 700,000 barrels a day will affect existing oil trading patterns. In the course of the negotiations some traders voiced fears that Iraq might try to use the oil sales in such a way as to destabilise the markets of some of its Gulf rivals.

The agreement, however, is constructed so that the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee, known as the "661 committee", will have to approve each proposed sale. Details, such as the proposed purchase price at "fair market value", the export routes and information on the letter of credits payable to a UN monitored escrow account, will have to be provided by countries buying Iraqi crude oil.

The sales will also be monitored by independent industry experts based at Ceyhan, the Turkish port at the end of the pipeline that links Iraq's oil fields to the Mediterranean, and at Mina Al-Bakr, Iraq's oil export terminal on-the Gulf.

Such measures were put in place to prevent any cheating by Iraq. Oil traders yesterday said they were reassured by the various safeguards, but they want to see how the system works in practice.

Mr Peter Gignoux, head of the energy desk at the London office of US brokers Smith Barney, said the market was still not fully focused on how Iraqi exports might effect prices over the medium term. "We need to see how the oil sales are organised and how they will impact on oil trading patterns," he said.

Iraq yesterday said the agreement on limited sales was merely the first step in a process which will lead to its full return to world oil markets. But most western analysts said it was unlikely that the limited sales programme would be expanded beyond its current objectives.

Yesterday's agreement also revealed that Iraq would also like to export oil through neighbouring Syria. But

Baghdad agreed to defer that demand "in order to facilitate the conclusion" of the agreement. Baghdad also agreed to defer another demand that it be reimbursed $2 a barrel to cover the cost of production and transport of the oil within Iraq.

The agreement also raised questions about whether other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will have to cut their production in order to accommodate the Iraqi oil.

In recent months Opec's out-put has been running about 1 million barrels a day above the group's production ceiling of 24.52 barrels a day. Opec yesterday said it would take some action at its meeting in Vienna early June to ensure that the return of Iraqi oil does not destabilise world markets.

But some analysts warn that the return of Iraqi crude could bring to a head a long simmering dispute between Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest producer, and countries such as Venezuela, which have been cheating on their production quotas over the past year or so.

### Iraq: Prices of Foodstuff, Other Commodities Reportedly Decrease

*JN2105200596 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 96*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Trade effected a 40-50 percent decrease in the prices of food supplies, nonperishable goods, and spare parts as of today, Tuesday, in implementation of the letter leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, sent to the Council of Ministers on 2 December 1995.

A responsible source at the ministry told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the decrease in prices covered many of the food supplies and nonperishable goods offered for sale at the Ministry of Trade's outlets: at central markets, their branches in the governorates, and the Baghdad International Fair. A can of shortening is sold for 4,000 dinars. One kg of tea is sold for 400 dinars, one kg of rice is sold for 150 dinars, and a can of half-cream baby milk is sold for 400 dinars.

The source indicated that these prices will see another steady decline in the coming days.

In a related development, local markets have seen a noticeable decrease in prices. While touring some local markets, the correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY noticed that citizens' shopping is confined to their actual requirements for the day despite this decline in prices and despite the increase in the amounts offered for sale by store keepers, particularly food supplies.

### Iraq: 3 Attorneys, Including Saddam Adviser Arrested Late Apr

*JN2105143796 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The tyrant's authorities arrested three attorneys in late April. Our sources said that attorney Raghib Sabri Yusuf, who held the rank of a major general when he was the chairman of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Defense; attorney Ihsan al-Mufti, a former under secretary at the Ministry of Awqaf; and attorney 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi, an adviser to the tyrant, were taken into custody in Baghdad for hitherto unknown reasons. The sources pointed out that the three attorneys worked at the same law office after they were pensioned off. The arrests were made while they were at the office, which is located in the al-'Ulwiyah area behind the telephone exchange in Baghdad.

### Iraq: Radio Reports Baghdad 'Explosions,' Casualties Late Apr, Early May

*NC2105150796 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqis arriving in Amman have reported that two huge explosions took place in Baghdad, but were not announced by the authorities. The first took place on 4 May in one of the secret buildings of the regime's intelligence service in al-Karradah, destroying part of the building as well as two vehicles belonging to the service. The second explosion took place on 28 April in (?al-Raslaniyah) fuel complex, causing considerable property damage.

Meanwhile, opposition sources have reported that the blast that took place in the intelligence service in Karkuk on 8 May killed or injured 21 security personnel, destroyed part of the building, and damaged four intelligence vehicles.

### Israel: Peres on Role of Dimona, Oslo, Jerusalem's Unity

*TA2205110596 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 96 p A3*

[Report by Shmu'el Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres was the guest of Dimona yesterday. Accompanied by Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, he was received at the city council hall by Mayor Gabi Lalush and local dignitaries.

Ben-Eli'ezer told the gathering: "We are currently in the planning stages of a Beersheba-Dimona highway. I hope that work will start within a year."

In his speech, Peres said: "For me every visit to Dimona is exciting. Dimona gave Israel security and Oslo gave it hope for peace — which is also vital. This combination — Dimona and Oslo — is the right combination for deterring enemies and turning them into partners."

Asked by Dimona's rabbis whether he intends to divide Jerusalem, Peres said: "The only party dividing Jerusalem is the television. Do not believe it. In order to realize how big this falsehood is, consider this: We promised to submit the final agreement with the Palestinians to a referendum. Do you think any of us conceives of the possibility that the public will support an agreement that entails dividing up Jerusalem?" [passage omitted]

### Israel: Savir on Iranian Plans To Sabotage Elections, Peace Process

*TA2105155796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says Iran is planning to sabotage the Israeli elections and the peace process, and Israel will not allow this to happen. Speaking to a delegation of Arab writers and journalists in Jerusalem, Savir said that both Israel and the Palestinians are tackling terrorism in their own way.

[Begin Savir recording] There are even those pro-Iranian elements that want to kill Israelis on the eve of the Israeli elections in order to affect the Israeli elections. But to us, in my view, it is a security problem. It's not for me to decide what it is for the Palestinians, but I can give you my analysis. I think the terror is a security problem for Israel, I think it is an existential problem for the Palestinian Authority.

I think that a lot of the material that was discovered really reflects the fact that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was out to replace Yasir 'Arafat. And, these are the facts of life, and if we will not do away with it the peace process will not continue, because we then have to take countermeasures, the countermeasures create bitterness, the bitterness creates another cycle of violence.

What is so bad about this situation? That when we criticize each other.... [pauses] Those Israelis who say 'Arafat is not doing enough, what are they basically saying? It's not a criticism toward the policy. Deep down they are saying: He will never change; the Palestinians will never change. And when certain Palestinians complain about the closure or an occupation mentality, deep down people say: These Israelis will never change.

Well, people change in times of peace processes, and they were not so bad in the first place either. The conflict was about interests that we are resolving. And, we will resolve the problems together. It will be difficult, but it has to be done. We'll put away, out with the Hamas. Hamas can be a legitimate political movement if it wants; any movement can be a legitimate opposition, but rifles and terror, there has to be a total end to it. I can assure you if there is an end to it, there is an end to the closure. Closure inflicts pain on the Palestinians, and it inflicts pain on our relationship, and inflicts a loss on Israel. But if, God forbid, there is terror activity again, and again, and again, we can say goodbye to the peace process. Nobody will trust it, and that's exactly what terror wants. It has become a strategic tool of those who sit in Tehran to kill the process. [end recording]

Uri Savir also disclosed that representatives from Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians will meet on Sunday [26 May] to discuss the issues of crossing points and trade. He said the trilateral meeting will take place in Jordan.

### Israel: Savir Says Withdrawal From Lebanon After 2 Months of Talks

*TA2205083396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry's director general, Uri Savir, said Israel is ready to resume negotiations with Lebanon and Syria. Speaking to Arab journalists in Jerusalem, he said if Lebanon would come to the negotiating table, Israel could withdraw from the security zone within two or three months.

[Begin Savir recording] You think we enjoy going into Lebanon? We had our lesson from it. But when on a day-to-day basis, due to instructions from somebody who sits miles away in Tehran, Hizballah shells Israel again and again and again, and we approach the United States to approach [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' to ask them for restraint and they continue, and five Israeli soldiers are killed one day and civilians on another — what is the government supposed to do? And you cannot get to the Hizballah. In the end, we had to shake the status quo for Syria to come to the conclusion they should come — and I say it out of respect for Syria because I want to negotiate with them and I do not want to criticize them the way the Syrians criticize us in the press — that these understandings should have existed in the present form, with restraint, with a mechanism, before we did what we did. [sentence as heard] And Peres said to Christopher — I remember — why are they forcing us into action if we can have the understandings without it? And the shakeup of the status quo, that led to understandings that will lead to stability, that will lead to peace negotiations. We are ready to start tomorrow morning negotiations with Lebanon. I assure you it will take not more than two, three months and we are out. [end recording]

### Israel: Salamah Said Giving 'Abundant' Information on Hamas Goals

*TA2105184296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 96*

['Imanu'el Rosen's video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a development in the manhunt for Muhammad Dayf, the most wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitive. Following information communicated by Hasan Salamah to his interrogators, a senior defense official approached the Palestinian Authority [PA] with the demand that Dayf be apprehended at once. This report was filed by our correspondent Qobi Marenko.

Salamah further told his interrogators that Hamas' plan for the preelection period was to carry out attacks against military targets only, in order to avoid swaying the votes. Our correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Today Major General 'Uzi Dayan gave us an idea of what goes on near Hasan Salamah's hospital bed when the cameras are not there.

[Dayan] Right now Salamah is in interrogation, and the only thing I can tell you is that although he was moderately wounded, his vocal cords were not affected.

[Rosen] And indeed, his vocal cords have been spewing abundant, vital information, from which at least two important facts emerged. The first is that, as we reported last night, Salamah's men planned to kidnap a solder this week. The second is an internal Hamas decision to attack only military targets until the elections. High-ranking security sources explained this by the relative ease with which soldiers can be kidnaped, along with the understanding that a major attack on a civilian target is liable to boomerang in the form of an insufferable blow to Hamas. Salamah further told the interrogators that Hamas had decided to avoid attacks that may affect the outcome of the elections.

The situation in the Islamic Jihad is entirely different. According to the high-ranking security sources, that organization is acting on Iran's explicit order to carry out a massive attack before the elections, one that will affect the ballots. [end recording]

### Israel: 4 'Terrorists' Detained in Turkey Apparently Not 'Terrorists'

*TA2205105096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 96 p A12*

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The four Turkish citizens detained on Monday [20 May] night in Turkey on their way to Israel were detained for interrogation in Israel yesterday. A security source said that the initial interrogation indicates the four are not terrorists. The source said the four are cooperating and are providing details about their visit and itinerary in Turkey. Defense establishment sources praise the cooperation with the Turkish security forces.

It was reported that if it transpires the four are "innocent civilians" they will be released and asked to leave the country.

A security source says "there are many warnings about the possibility of attacks abroad and about plans to send terrorists to Israel." The source says that the defense establishment increased the guard forces at Israeli institutions abroad and top alert is being maintained at airports. [passage omitted]

### Israel: Islamic Jihad Said Recruiting Turk 'Terrorists' for Attacks

*TA2205105396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 May 96 pp 12, 13*

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad organization is recruiting Turkish nationals to carry out terror attacks against Israeli, Jewish, and American targets in Turkey.

This arises from the interrogation and detention of Islamic Jihad activists in Turkey and in the territories. The intelligence information gathered indicates that Turkey serves as one of Islamic Jihad's centers of operation. The activity mainly focuses on Palestinian students, but also involves Turkish citizens who are members of fundamentalist Muslim organizations.

In mid-March the Israeli Shin Bet detained a Turkish citizen who was recruited into Islamic Jihad by a Palestinian student from the Gaza Strip. The Turk, Iz Siyan, a physician, gathered information on Jewish and Israeli targets in Turkey and offered himself up to carry out a suicide attack opposite the Israeli Embassy. Siyan also offered to attack Israeli tourists in Antalya, on an El Al plane, and at U.S. Army headquarters in Ankara.

A special Islamic Jihad representative from Syria, who went to a meeting with the doctor in Turkey, ordered him to recruit more Turkish citizens into Islamic Jihad. He ordered Siyan to apply for visas at the Israeli Embassy for him and the other recruits — this in order to carry out attacks in Israel.

The Islamic Jihad has a local headquarters in Turkey, which maintains contacts with the organization's headquarters in Syria. The headquarters also maintains contacts with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards via Iranian Intelligence contacts posted to the Iranian Embassy in Turkey.

Our correspondent notes that over the last few years the relations between the Israeli and Turkish intelligence branches have grown tighter — mainly due to the increase of radical Islamic terrorism. Sources in Turkey and Israel assess that Palestinian Muslim organizations may forge terrorism contacts with Muslim organizations in Turkey. [passage omitted]

[The same YEDI'OT AHARONOT edition includes a 200-word report by 'Ofer Petersburg on p 13 adding: "The Shin Bet has directed the Interior Ministry to reconsider the employment in Israel of 10,000 Turkish workers and to freeze the importation of additional workers from that country.

["Israel is growing concerned about the increase of fundamentalist Muslim terrorism in Turkey and about the possibility of its introduction into Israel via foreign workers employed in Israel by the thousands without sufficient security screening."]

### Israel: Video Clip of PNC Session on Charter Presented

*TA2105180196 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A video clip of the actual session at which the Palestinian National Council [PNC] voted on "changes" to the Palestinian Charter reveals the true significance of the vote. Professor Yehoshu'a Porat of the Meretz party, and Yig'al Karmon, adviser to former Prime Minister Shamir on terror, held a press conference this morning at which they disclosed the film, which shows Salim al-Za'nun, Chairman of the PNC, making the following statements to the Council prior to the vote:

"I would like to tell you, before we begin the vote, that our Judicial Committee voted 43 to 1 that we must fulfill our obligation at the lowest cost possible. Therefore we say: If we amend the clauses that must be amended, this means that we have paid a very high price. But if we prepare a new proposal, this will be less damaging... If we enter into details, this is tantamount to giving away something for free. The wording that has been composed is the least damaging that we can give, it gives us an extension of six months until our next meeting..."

Moments following the vote, former 'Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani told reporters (in English), "This is not an amendment, this is not an amendment. It is a license to pass a new resolution." Our correspondent noted that the special committee which was empowered by the vote to draft a new resolution has not yet been appointed.

### Israel: Palestinian Covenant 'Frozen,' Not Annulled

*TA2205050296 (Internet) Eretz Yisra'el Discussion Group in English 22 May 96*

[Peace Watch Press Release dated 21 May: "Internal Fatah Document: 'The Text of the Palestinian National Covenant Remains as It Was and No Changes Were Made to It. This Has Caused It To Be Frozen but Not Annulled'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peace Watch revealed today an internal publication issued by the "Research and Thought" division of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, entitled "The Palestinian National Covenant Between Renewal and Being Frozen." It was published in Ramallah at the end of April 1996, and was intended for the party's internal cadres. The document declares that the PLO Covenant was frozen, but not annulled, and that no changes were made to the document at the recent session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

The publication surveys the three different stances in the PNC about changing the Covenant. The first approach accepted the importance of amending the Covenant, but conditioned changes on Israeli compliance with its obligations, and therefore opposed amending the Covenant at this time. Proponents of the second approach felt it was necessary to fulfill the Palestinian commitment to amend the Covenant without conditioning it on Israeli fulfillment of its obligations, and therefore favored immediate amendment. The third approach, which according the document's authors is the one that prevailed, is described as follows:

"Supporters of this approach felt that effort should be invested in the framework of the negotiations to reach a text of a decision that would grapple with the evil and corrupt acts which are expected from the Israeli side. If a death warrant is issued for the Palestinian Covenant in the manner in which the Israelis want — namely, annulment of the articles and amending before the beginning of the final status talks — then instead of addressing the necessary changes to the Covenant in the framework of a special session, the inclination was to obtain the approval of the PNC in a regular session, to undertake to amend the Covenant and to authorize the Legal Committee to redraft the National Covenant and to present it before the Central Committee at its first meeting."

"The text of the Palestinian National Covenant remains as it was and no changes whatsoever were made to it. This has caused it to be frozen but not annulled. The drafting of the new National Covenant will take into account the extent of Israeli fulfillment of this previous and coming obligations, and the extent of the commitment of the Israeli Prime Minister that will be elected at the end of May. The expectation of Peres' return and the possibility that Netanyahu will win, mean that in any event the text of the Covenant will reflect the adherence of the Government of Israel to its obligations and to the peace process. And this matter is riddled with doubts."

The document also states that the PNC decided to authorize the Legal Committee to draft a new Covenant which shall include a number of future "security valves" based on international law as well as on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and political declaration that were issued on 15 November 1988 in Algiers, which asserted that Jewish settlements are illegal, occupied Jerusalem is Palestinian land and part of the independent Palestinian state, and that refugees have the right of return. In addition, the document says, "the fact that the PNC did not hold a special session to make changes and amendments in the text of the National Covenant at this stage, as well as the failure to prepare a new Covenant in the shadow of psychological pressures, the closure and the other Zionist actions, was done to defend the new Covenant from being influenced by the current Israeli dictatorship." According to the authors, the Israeli demand to amend the Covenant was in effect a demand to issue "a self-inflicted death certificate for the PNC and suicide for the PLO."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 22 May reports that "Palestinian sources in Gaza have rejected the Peace Watch report that a document from the Fatah proves the Palestinian National Council has not amended clauses in its charter calling for Israel's destruction. The sources say the group referred to by Peace Watch is known for its opposition to the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel."]

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### Israel: Peres, Beilin 'Deeply at Odds' Over Future of Jordan Valley

*TA2105182096 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM REPORT in English 13 May 96 p 8*

["Exclusive" report by Leslie Susser]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and his key peace process protege, Yosi Beilin, are deeply at odds over whether Israel needs to retain control of the Jordan Valley under the final-status accord with the Palestinians, THE JERUSALEM REPORT has learned.

Beilin, who is certain to play a leading role in the talks with the Palestinians if Peres is returned to office on May 29, argues that, since Israel now enjoys peace with Jordan, it no longer needs to maintain a so-called "security border" in the Jordan Valley, nor leave the 4,000 Jewish settlers there.

But Peres counters that Israel cannot afford to relinquish control of the Jordan Valley — because it protects Israel on the eastern front, and protects Jordan from a possible spillover of Palestinian nationalism from the West Bank.

Beilin is heading a Peres-appointed "First 100 Days" team, now working on various scenarios for alternative final-status agreements with the Palestinians. One of the options that Beilin suggested to Peres recently was for a demilitarized Palestinian state encompassing the Jordan Valley. Peres responded, THE REPORT has learned, that he is now ready to accept the idea of a Palestinian state, but only on condition that it be a stage leading to eventual confederation with Jordan, and that the Jordan River remain Israel's security border.

A few months ago, Peres rejected an informal deal on borders and settlements between Beilin and the PLO's Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] precisely because it didn't include Israeli control of the Jordan Valley and the Jordan River security border.

Some settlers say they believe Beilin will prevail, and that in the end they will have to evacuate. And one of their leaders, Meni Kfir of Moshav Patza'el, noted: "Under no circumstances will we be prepared to stay on here under Palestinian rule, even if that is what a future accord stipulates."

Kfir added that the settlers, most of whom identify with Labor rather than the right, would like to stay on under Israeli sovereignty. But if, for the sake of peace, they have to go, he said, they will do so peacefully.

[A report by the same correspondent on page 32 adds: "Beilin and 'Arafat's No. 2, Abu-Mazin, have already worked out a deal for Israel to annex 11 percent of the West Bank, keeping 90 percent of the 140,000 settlers on its side of the border. In return, the Palestinians would get a state in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza."]

### Israel: PM's Office Denies Report on '2 Jerusalems' Solution

*TA2205100796 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 May 96 p 7*

[Report by Orly Azulay-Katz]

[FBIS Translated Text] An especially creative idea for solving the Jerusalem problem has been raised over the last few days by the team negotiating with the Palestinians. The proposal was worked out in the Prime Minister's Office in the framework of the discussions preceding the permanent arrangement talks, but no one committed himself on it. A senior source involved in the negotiations claims, however, that eventually, after lengthy and difficult negotiations, this proposal may be accepted.

In general terms this proposal speaks of "two Jerusalems." United Jerusalem will not be divided and will remain Israel's capital. Outside Israeli sovereignty, however, the Palestinians will be offered their political and business capital in the areas of Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah, which according to the Jordanians are defined as the al-Quds District. Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah are already located in Area B of the autonomy and are under the Palestinian Authority's [PA] jurisdiction. At present, the Palestinian business center is located in Ramallah.

According to the proposal, this center will be transferred to Abu-Dis, which happens to be the birthplace of Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], Israel's partner in the Oslo Accords. The Palestinians will be able to call the place al-Quds, which is the accurate geographic and legal name of the place.

In this way nothing will be detracted from Jerusalem's position as Israel's capital. If the Palestinians agree to implement this option, Israel will help them raise international funds to establish an international business center and industrial center in Abu-Dis. At the same time the Palestinians will maintain free access to the holy sites in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli and Palestinian teams to the permanent arrangement talks are not holding formal talks on the Jerusalem issue. The idea of "two Jerusalems" has been raised in private talks. The Palestinians are saying they oppose this proposal, but the formal talks have not started. The talks on the issue have been informal — conducted in the framework of the friendly attempts to find a solution.

"It's not like we are offering them a place like Holon and simply saying call it 'Jerusalem,'" said a senior source who is very close to the talks. "We are offering them a geographic area considered 'al-Quds' and turning it into their capital, with free access to the holy sites — something they cannot do now.

"At present they do not want to deal with this proposal, because they are saying they want East Jerusalem. But negotiating processes have their own dynamics, and I believe that of all the proposals this is the best."

Shim'on Peres himself considered the solution in terms of a confederation with Jordan, under which Jordan's capital would also be considered the Palestinian capital. This proposal, however, has apparently been removed from the agenda.

It should be noted that in the opening of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement between Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, the latter presented an uncompromising position according to which united Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital forever.

[The same page of YEDI'OT AHARONOT includes a 50-word report by Doron Golan adding: "'The permanent arrangements will lead to a very significant development for Jerusalem: It will enjoy international recognition. Not an inch of Jerusalem will constitute the PA's capital. Jerusalem will not be divided.'

["This was said by Minister Yosi Beilin in Haifa yesterday. Beilin claims it is possible to reach a permanent agreement satisfying the needs of the Palestinians and Israel — even the moderate right wing in Israel. The minister emphasized there is no written agreement between Israel and the PA on Jerusalem."]

[An ITIM Report on page 3 of THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 22 May provides more details on Beilin's remarks: "Compromising on the West Bank will allow Israel to retain a united Jerusalem as its capital and better protect its territory."

["'In the final status talks with the Palestinians, we will completely give up control of parts of the West Bank... and not just the six percent Israel was required to give up in the interim talks,' he said.

["This move would also allow Israel to hold onto Jerusalem and better protect the parts of the West Bank it does hold onto, he continued."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 22 May notes that "the prime minister's bureau denies this morning's report in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the Prime Minister's Office recently formulated an idea to establish a capital for the Palestinian Authority near Jerusalem."]

### Israel: Ben-Gurion Airport Closed by Protesting Air Controllers

*TA2005062896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Air traffic controllers closed Ben-Gurion Airport to air traffic an hour ago to forewarn about the grave danger to air safety caused by the continued broadcasts of pirate radio stations, which disrupt communication with aircraft.

The order to close the airport was made by Yisra'el Ben-Hayim, the airport's deputy chief of operations. He told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the pirate radio stations disrupt airport-airplane communications, blocking even secondary channels. Ben-Hayim said that if the disturbances are not eliminated within the next few hours, the airport's coordination center will prevent the arrival of incoming foreign planes.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that most of the disturbances are caused by a station named Voice of Peace. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said this morning that she has been cautioning for a long time that the broadcasts may cause a disaster. Aloni scored the police for not doing enough to close the pirate stations, the courts for passing ridiculous punishments, and Knesset members who support the 'Arutz-7 radio station for having obstructed any action against the stations.

### Israel: Ben-Gurion Airport Traffic Resumes; Pirate Radio Closed

*TA2005093796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Communication Ministry staffers and policemen raided the Tel Aviv site of the Voice of Peace, a pirate radio station, and confiscated its equipment. The radio operators fled before the arrival of the police. This morning the station severely interfered with Ben-Gurion Airport's communications, jeopardizing aircraft. As a result, air traffic controllers discontinued all air traffic for three hours. The flights were resumed an hour ago.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that another pirate radio station broadcasting from the Yahud area discontinued its broadcasts a short while ago. No disturbances of radio contact with aircraft exist at the moment.

### Israel: Peres To Continue Settlement Freeze; Criticizes Likud

*TA2205102896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres said that if he is elected prime minister, he will continue the freeze on settlement activity in the territories and will prevent the establishment of new settlements. Peres will also work to separate Israelis and Palestinians.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that at a lecture to students in Petah Tiqva, the prime minister criticized the Likud for bringing up the issue of Jerusalem during the election campaign. Peres said that this would only give ideas to the Arab side.

### Israel: Netanyahu, Peres To Debate on TV 26 May

*TA2205103596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Television moderator and journalist Dan Margalit has been selected to host the upcoming television debate between Prime Minister Peres and Likud leader Netanyahu.

The debate is scheduled for Sunday [26 May].

Each contender will be given 10 minutes to state his position followed by an opportunity to ask one question, each of the other.

### Israel: 'Secret' USIA Poll Shows Peres Leading by 5 Percent

*TA2105184796 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 96*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] USIA, the U.S. Government's Information Agency, commissioned a secret election poll in Israel two weeks ago. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that in the poll conducted on 5 May, Shim'on Peres led by 5 percent in the race with Binyamin Netanyahu. The poll, carried out for the internal use of the U.S. Administration, was conducted among the Jewish population only.

## Israel: 'Secret' Labor Document Shows Tie Between Peres, Netanyahu

*TA2205111496 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 96 p A1*

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] A secret document submitted by Labor's strategic adviser Hayim Asa to Labor elections campaign chiefs Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Minister Ehud Baraq, and party Secretary General Nisim Zvili, includes criticism of the polls commissioned by Labor which show that Peres leads Netanyahu by about 5 percent. Asa believes the real result is much closer to a tie — just as the Likud claims. The document has been submitted to the prime minister.

Minister Hayim Ramon, head of Labor's information headquarters, yesterday tried to refute the Likud claims on the issue. He based his remarks on the open and internal polls which show Peres consistently leading since the beginning of the campaign. Asa bases his conflicting assessment — which has not been brought to Ramon's attention — on a thorough examination of 12 polls commissioned by the information headquarters during April. The polls were conducted by two statistics professors.

The document states that each of these polls included a sample of 500 people, while Asa claims that 2,000 people are needed for calculating the breakdown of the floating votes, something that to the best of his knowledge was not done. Asa directs the same accusation at the pollsters conducting the polls that are being published in the media. He and his team have reached the conclusion that the polls in fact point to a result which is close to a tie.

Asa conducted his investigation at the request of Ben-Eli'ezer, Baraq, and Zvili. The issue has been kept secret from Ramon, who fell out with Asa during the Histadrut elections in 1994, when Asa served as head of Labor's strategic team. Because of Ramon's opposition Asa was not included in Labor's elections information headquarters.

Within three weeks Asa prepared three reports for the three, and in return Labor paid him 117,000 shekels. His employment was kept secret from Ramon for fear of a serious crisis in the elections headquarters.

Asa's second document analyzes the Likud's campaign, while the third analyzes Labor's campaign under Ramon's direction. This document includes criticism and proposes an alternative campaign. Asa, for example, rejects the slogan "Israel Is Strong With Peres," and proposes in exchange the slogan "Israel Relies on Peres," claiming it is more appropriate for Labor's target public.

He also claims Peres should direct more personal appeals to the public, as Netanyahu is doing. Some of his proposals were presented by Baraq during the meetings of the steering committee, but most of them were rejected due to Ramon's opposition.

Asa continues to serve as Peres' "behind the scenes adviser" and holds private meetings with him. He also composed some of his election speeches and will advise Peres in anticipation of his debate with Netanyahu. This fact was also concealed from Ramon.

According to a senior Labor source, Peres is already implementing some of Asa's recommendations. For example, he increased the number of his elections ads and public appearances. The senior source explained Peres' modus operandi as follows: "He uses several channels while keeping them secret from each other, because he does not rely on any one channel alone."

## Israel: Likud Poll Gives Netanyahu 1-2 Percent Lead Over Peres

*TA2105175296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud prime ministerial candidate Binyamin Netanyahu says an internal public opinion poll shows him in the lead over Shim'on Peres by 1 to 2 percent. The Likud is standing firm on its demand that a television debate between the two men include interaction and not just declarations by the candidates. The debate is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of next week. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] As the Likud-Gesher-Tzomet bloc held campaign consultations at the Neve Ilan guest house outside Jerusalem, Reserves Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay sounded as though he were back in the military, rallying the troops, giving a pep talks, and discussing the importance of teamwork. Stating the obvious, Mordekhay told those in attendance the objective is to win. Get the voters out, he declared, the voters who support us.

Likud prime ministerial candidate Binyamin Netanyahu said the narrow lead in the poll conducted two days ago marked an incredible turnaround from the situation five to six months ago, a reference to the period immediately after the Rabin assassination. In a meeting which was opened to the media today, Netanyahu said the gap is so narrow, hundreds of votes in one direction or the other could make the difference. A board at the back of the room listed the names of Knesset members responsible for voting in different parts of the country.

Netanyahu said he had two major concerns: that supporters exercise their right to vote, but also that polling stations be properly supervised by Likud-Gesher-Tzomet representatives. Again citing the narrow gap, Netanyahu said that leaving the polling stations without sufficiently effective protection, in his words, could be crucial.

Some at today's meeting voiced the opinion, based on what they said was their experience in the field, that Netanyahu is in better shape in the race for the premiership than the Likud-Gesher-Tzomet bloc is in the vote for the Knesset. In the extreme case, it was said, there will be voters who will place a slip of paper for the Labor Party in one envelope, with that for Netanyahu in the other. Knesset candidate Gid'on 'Ezra said that he believed Netanyahu could get a significant number of Arab votes, but that the three-way Knesset bloc had a smaller chance of doing so. [passage omitted]

### Israel: Sharon on Likud Security Plan, Talks With Syria

*TA1705100296 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 96 p 6*

[Commentary by Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon: "The Likud's Plan, Simply Put"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The time has come to dispel the confusion and explain the National Camp's position in simple language, without verbal preening.

The Likud cannot accept the Oslo accords. Accepting them means that if we form the next government, we will be forced to continue with a terrible and dangerous agreement; and if we remain in the opposition, we shall not be able to continue the struggle against the agreement and its repercussions.

Critics could justifiably say, "Why are you protesting? After all, you accepted the agreement!" Yet we cannot avoid taking into account certain facts that have already come into being.

We will act as follows:

In areas, minimal for the time being, that have already been handed over to the Palestinian Authority (designated as A areas), we will demand the correction of all violations, namely: An all-out war by the Palestinian Authority against terrorism (which has yet to be launched); the extradition of wanted murderers; confiscation of firearms and all weapons; an end to anti-Israel incitement.

In the areas that have not yet been handed over to the Palestinians we will implement the Likud plan: The Palestinians will be permitted to conduct their daily lives without interference (with the exception of issues requiring coordination). But responsibility for security and the war against terrorism will remain in Israel's hands.

In addition, the areas of Jewish settlement and other security areas will remain under exclusive Israeli rule.

If in the future we decide, within the framework of the permanent solution, to apply Israeli law in these areas, we shall do so.

The security areas include the mountain range, whose width is up to 20 km, east of what was once the Green Line, which strategically dominates most of Israel's population; a strip of about 25 kilometers west of the Jordan River and Dead Sea which enables Israel to defend itself in the east; the area of Jerusalem, including its satellite cities, and the area between Wadi al-Qilt and the Qidron stream to the northern end of the Dead Sea.

In addition, the main arteries connecting the coastal plain with the Jordan River and the Dead Sea will be included in the security areas, and several kilometers on each side of them. For example: Derekh Hayim (the Trans-Samaria highway), the Trans-Judaea highway, and the Modi'in-Ma'ale Adumim Route.

Jerusalem will be united forever. It will be the capital of Israel only. PLO and Palestinian Authority offices will be moved out.

Palestinian security forces, which today operate illegally in east Jerusalem and on the Temple Mount, will be banished from the city. UN forces or UN observers will not be deployed in the area. The grievous error of their deployment in Hebron is enough.

This stumbling government has learned nothing from its bitter experience in southern Lebanon. In Hebron, too, terrorists will operate under the cover of UN observers. As in Qana, terrorists will find shelter among them after hitting us.

And if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] takes action, the world — which in the boastful words of the government is entirely with us — will react as it has just done in the UN.

The slap in the face this government has just received seems not to have sufficed.

With the Golan Heights we will do as follows: The Likud government will continue a channel of communication with the Syrians. In general we think, as do several prominent American statesmen, that a final settlement with Syria has to be postponed until the post-al-Asad era.

This is because of the assumption that, after al-Asad, there will be a period of instability in Syria, with Israel liable to find itself without the Golan Heights, and without peace.

Every future settlement with Syria will be based on Israel's retention of the Golan. Every weakening of Israel's hold on the Golan, even the most minimal, will require a parallel move on Syria's side, including the drastic reduction of its army (Syria today has 4,800 tanks and 1,000 ground missiles), the removal of all forces from Lebanon, and the complete dismantling of all Palestinian terrorist organizations and their headquarters in Syria.

For those who worry about Israel's security and existence: Before confusion turns you into floating voters, this, in simple language, is the Likud's plan. Through it, peace with security can be achieved.

That is, if the Arabs want peace at all. Which is still an unknown.

## Israel: Trade With Iraq Likely To Expand After Deal With UN

*TA2205112296 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 96 p 2*

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel's unofficial trade with Iraq is expected to increase significantly with the UN decision to allow Baghdad to sell oil to buy food and medicine, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources, who have had indirect contacts with Iraq, said that Israeli companies currently are estimated to be selling about $2 million worth of food and medicine to Baghdad. The supplies are routed through Jordan.

In return, the sources said, Iraq supplies Israel with oil, largely through Jordan's port of al-'Aqabah.

The sources said the partial lifting of the UN embargo will allow the unofficial trade between Iraq and Israel to blossom. One estimate is Israel could increase its trade to $100 million within a year.

On Monday [20 May], the UN signed a deal with Iraq that allowed Saddam Husayn's regime to sell $1 billion worth of oil every 90 days. Iraqi officials said the oil exports could begin within several weeks.

A senior Israel official said local private firms are conducting trade with virtually every state in the Arab world, including Iraq and Libya. The trade is through third parties, both European and Arab, and much of it is done without Israeli government intervention.

"They don't ask us for help because they're doing business themselves very nicely," the official said. "As a result, we don't have an exact estimate. What we do know is that Israel's trade with the Arab world is at least hundreds of millions of dollars." [passage omitted]

### Jordan: King Reportedly Scheduled To Meet Israel's Baraq in London

*JN2205053196 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 96 pp 1, 7*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn was scheduled to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq in London late Monday [20 May] in what Israeli reports said was an Israeli bid to end a strain in relations caused by last month's Israeli military operations in South Lebanon. There was no immediate Jordanian confirmation that the meeting was indeed taking place.

Another Israeli official, Uri Savir, said in occupied Jerusalem that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli economic committee was to meet in Amman on Sunday.

Apparently suggesting that the meeting was a positive indication of efforts to resolve the strain in the Jordanian-Israeli relationship, Mr. Savir said there was no crisis between the two countries.

The English-language JERUSALEM POST said the purported London meeting was aimed at restarting the "high-level strategic dialogue" between Jordan and Israel that was interrupted by the 16-day Israeli assault against South Lebanon in which more than 200 people, the bulk of them civilians, were killed, hundreds were wounded and 500,000 were displaced from their homes. [passage omitted]

### Jordan: Ambassador to Israel Conveys 'Disappointment' With Treaty

*MM2205110396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 May 96 p 5*

[Report by Mazin Hijazi in Amman: "Jordanian Ambassador to Tel Aviv Attacks Israel and Conveys Public Opinion's Disappointment With the Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Umar al-Rifa'i, Jordan's ambassador to Tel Aviv, attacked Israel and accused it of not implementing several of the treaty's agreements, including the agreement on water. He also attacked the fact that it is holding back the implementation of the trade agreement with the Palestinians. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he had informed Israeli officials that Jordanians are disappointed with the treaty and its outcome.

In a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his office, he said that his meeting last week with Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli opposition Likud Party, should not be seen as Jordanian interference in Israel's internal affairs and elections. In a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that his meeting with Netanyahu came within the context of his courtesy visits, as his country's ambassador, to all party leaders and government officials in Israel.

The Jordanian ambassador confirmed Israeli media reports which quote him as saying that Jordanian-Israeli relations have been affected during the recent months by the Israeli aggression against Lebanon as a result of the "Grapes of Wrath" operation, and by the blockade imposed on the Palestinian areas.

Al-Rifa'i added that, during several of his recent meetings with Israeli officials, he has told them that Jordanian public opinion is disappointed with the outcome of the peace process, in view of the fact that Israel has created many obstacles, particularly with regard to trade, has held back the implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian trade agreement, and has not abided by the ratified agreements, especially with regard to water and movement between the two countries.

On whether the Israelis have shown any understanding for the Jordanian position or promised to implement the ratified agreements, the ambassador said: "No doubt the election campaign in Israel has had a clear impact on the failure to undertake concrete steps toward effectively implementing the peace treaty." He added: "I conveyed a frank and clear view to the Israeli officials who stressed that the domestic situation is behind this slowdown in activating the terms of the treaty," and pointed to Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's statement yesterday that Israel has a top strategic interest that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan should be strong and self-confident. According to Baraq's statement, Jordan is an element of stability in the region, having taken the first step toward peace and made an outstanding contribution to the peace process. It also has a pivotal part to play in the final formula of the comprehensive peace.

### Jordan: Prince Postpones Israel Visit Over 'Deterioration' of Ties

*TA2105155496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd of Jordan has canceled his visit scheduled for next week as a result of the deterioration of relations with Israel. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the prince notified the umbrella organization of the Israeli associations of the handicapped that his visit is being postponed for the time being.

## Jordan: 'New U.S. Plan' on Jerusalem Detailed

*JN2205062396 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 May 96 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Details of June Deal; Secret Document To Be Presented at Summit; Document Prepared in Washington and Discussed From Security and Political Perspectives in Amman and Tel Aviv]

[FBIS Translated Text] Western diplomatic sources are linking a mini-Arab summit expected to be held in Amman in the first week of June with a new U.S. plan to resolve the Jerusalem problem and establish a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation with the holy city as its united religious and economic capital and each of the three constituent entities maintaining its political capital.

Despite the relatively considerable headway the peace process has made on the Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli tracks, regional and international players, notably the United States, are anxious to keep the process alive. Nevertheless, these players continue to believe that unless numerous major hurdles are surmounted — perhaps the most important of which is Arab difference with Tel Aviv over the future of Jerusalem, plus other controversial issues, such as the refugees, the evacuees, and the settlements — it will be hard, if not impossible, to attain real peace in the Middle East. These issues, which the Palestinians and Israelis agreed to defer to the final status negotiations, remain so contentious, even after bilateral agreements and treaties were signed and political and economic normalization got under way, that they jeopardize the entire peace process.

Anxious not to waste precious time, the United States naturally sought early on to lay the groundwork to create the right circumstances for a solution that could preempt an explosion and put the safeguards needed to protect an economically stable Middle East in place.

Thus, while Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin before him never stopped saying that Jerusalem is the eternal and united capital of the State of Israel, and Yasir 'Arafat keeps repeating the historical slogan of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, the U.S. Administration, through its Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has been sending out feelers to the parties to crystallize the shape of a new project based, as affirmed by well-informed Western diplomatic sources, on the following ideas:

1. The geographic and structural changes made by the Israeli Government in Jerusalem and its outskirts represent a new reality that must figure into any future political agreement on the city.

2. Any resolution of the Jerusalem problem must fit with the new conditions in the Middle East and the new world order to serve numerous ends, including an easing of the economic and security burden and charging the Middle East order with the responsibility of developing itself by itself.

The American project, as received by Cairo, Amman, and Gaza, as well as other Arab capitals via intensive contacts by the U.S. Administration shortly before the recent Cairo tripartite summit, boils down to a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation with a united Jerusalem as its capital.

According to AL-BILAD's sources, this project, which topped the agenda of the three-way Cairo summit, was prepared by a team of American, Israeli, and Jordanian experts on behalf of the U.S. Administration. It incorporates a series of suggestions concerning the prospective confederation. The project stresses, however, that the most realistic suggestion is the one inspired by the historical backdrop of relations between the people of the region.

The confederation, as seen by the aforementioned team of experts, would amount to an economic union among three politically independent states, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, with each maintaining its political capital — Amman, Gaza, and Tel Aviv — and its system of government, army, flag, and constitution. In the meantime, Jerusalem would be the common economic and religious capital and would be run by a council elected by its Palestinian and Israeli population. The two communities would be represented on the council in proportion to their population and with consideration to the religious equation. In the end, Jerusalem is projected to become an open city, along the lines of Hong Kong in the aftermath of World War II as provided for by an agreement between China and Britain.

The American, Israeli, and Jordanian team of experts' project anticipates that the holy city will experience, with the development of Arab-Israeli normalization, a real economic and financial boom, not just in terms of revenues from pilgrimage and religious tourism, but also because it will become an important hub for Middle East trade and a nucleus for a united Middle Eastern market. In addition, these partners will have solved the question of sovereignty over Jerusalem and access to it, retained the sacred character of the holy places, and secured self-generated funds for regional development by recycling oil revenues and easing the burden of weapons procurement, which will rid the United States of the burden of development and military aid for the countries of the region.

According to the Western diplomatic sources, this project would not have received the attention it has if it had not been associated with the Cairo summit and the summit scheduled to meet in Amman early June, According to leaked reports, this summit will not be confined to Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine, but will also be attended by other Arab states. Invitations have been sent to Riyadh, Doha, Muscat, and Manama. While Riyadh has offered its regrets, the others are very likely to participate at the prime minister or foreign minister level, if not at the head of state level. According to the information about the summit preparations, it is virtually certain that there will be a Jordanian-Palestinian summit in the next few days and another Jordanian-Israeli summit to coordinate stands on the American proposal on Jerusalem prior to the final status negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, especially since, on the other hand, there are a few months in a European capital to reach international and Palestinian recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital [sentence as published].

It is not clear whether the Amman summit will address the Israeli plan or restrict itself to an examination of the American proposal. Informed diplomatic sources, however, do not see this project as more than a tactical blueprint to push the Palestinians and Arabs into agreeing to the American proposal as a compromise solution.

It should be noted that the Israeli plan contains five options. The first calls for the Palestinians to be given the area adjacent to the periphery of Jerusalem, which is geographically joined to the Palestinian Authority, to be used as a government district. The other Arab neighborhoods would remain under Israeli sovereignty, with the population there enjoying utilitarian [wadhifi] self-rule.

The plan's authors attached a list of advantages to this option, the most important of which is that it would consecrate the historic reconciliation with the Palestinians and the Muslim world. It would also enhance the agreement's long-term survival prospects. The plan also calls for continued sovereignty over the Jewish neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, the Jewish Quarter, and the Wailing Wall. It also provides for Palestinian recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the post-1967 settlements, which have a population of 170,000.

Another virtue of this option is the prospect of Israel attaining regional objectives in return for concessions. One example is linking the "Ma'ale Adomim" and "Giv'at Ze'ev" settlements in the eastern part of the city to the western part. In return, the Palestinians would be granted sovereignty over al-Aqsa Mosque and the sacred Temple Mount, which is revered by the Jews. As for the four other options, these envisage either a continuation of the city's status quo that has existed since 1967 or a swap of closed areas within the city limits with West Bank areas. These options all categorically dismiss the Palestinian leadership's conventional assertions that the eastern part of the city will be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. These options also do not envisage any real partition of the holy city.

The Amman summit will not limit itself to political issues, but will also address security concerns, which, according to some reliable sources, will top the summit's agenda as a follow-up to the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit. This is particularly relevant given the participation of Gulf states, which have recently been on the receiving end of terrorism and fundamentalist extremism.

The same sources do not rule out the participation in this summit of certain nations from outside the Arab arena so that the conference will become a truly Middle Eastern parley that will give its blessing to the American proposal and join in forming a united course of action to counter terrorism.

## Jordan: Minister Denies King Husayn, Kuwait Prime Minister To Meet

*JN2205073896 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Minister of Information Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said in a statement to the press after a Cabinet session on Tuesday [21 May] that there was no plan to hold a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah in London. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan's relations with Gulf states were improving and that the Kingdom sent 600 Jordanians to work in the United Arab Emirates and another 500 would head there soon. "Our relations with Kuwait are returning to normal," he said, that the two countries had agreed on resuming direct transport between them. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said a phone call between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia focused on bilateral ties and arrangements to hold a Jordanian-Saudi economic committee meeting next month. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Israeli elections was neutral. "We do not support any party. We signed a peace agreement with the Israeli state not any political party," he said.

### Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir Says Iraq-UN Accord 'Positive Step'

*JN2105194396 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 21 May 96*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said yesterday's signing of the oil-for-food accord between Iraq and the United Nations was a positive step towards alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

He told a press conference after the cabinet meeting this evening that Jordan expected a positive impact of the step on the region. He noted that Jordan and Oman took part in drafting the Security Council's Resolution 986 upon which the Iraqi-UN deal is based.

Al-Mu'ashshir expressed satisfaction with the development of Jordan's relations with the Arab Gulf countries, indicating that they will further grow in the future.

### Jordan: Prince Hasan Addresses 'Thought Forum,' Notes Iraq-UN Deal

*JN2105191696 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has said Arab solidarity, enhancement of inter-Arab joint work, and securing the coordination in decisionmaking in the Arab world is becoming a vital necessity in today's world.

Addressing the 10th session of the Arab Thought Forum, his royal highness said we are living in a more intertwined and complicated world. Therefore, there was no way to solve many socio, economic and political problems within the one-state context.

He also pointed out to the attention paid to the Iraqis after five years of suffering because of the sanctions imposed since 1990. The regent was referring to an accord signed between Iraq and the UN to sell $2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy badly needed food and medicine.

He added: Dismays and frustrations should not stop us from gaining our basic goal, which is building the closely-knitted and integrated Arab world, taking into consideration the great changes the world has witnessed in the last few years. The regent outlined the role of educated Arabs in building the milestones of the road of development and called for the integration of all efforts and thoughts aimed at boosting the Arab nation's development march. His royal highness also reviewed the Arab thought forums's accomplishments on the Arab and national scenes.

### Jordan: Chamber of Industry President Welcomes Iraq-UN Accord

*JN2105154796 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 96*

[From the "Economic Bulletin" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khaldun Abu-Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, welcomed the signing of an oil-for-food accord between Iraq and the United Nations. The accord will allow Iraq to import quantities of food and medicine in exchange for exporting quantities of Iraqi oil.

Abu-Hassan expressed his confidence that this important accord would help fraternal Iraq ease its suffering following a blockade of approximately six years.

In a statement to the press, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry said: We are looking forward to receiving the head and members of the Iraqi Industries Union and the president of the Iraqi Chambers of Commerce Union to attend the large Jordanian industries exhibition, scheduled to open on Sunday [26 May] under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn. At the same time, Abu-Hassan said, the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee will meet to study the spheres of cooperation between us in light of the recent developments in fraternal Iraq's circumstances.

### Jordan: Iraq-UN Deal Seen as First Step Toward 'Real Solution'

*JN2205074696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 96 p 6*

[Editorial: "Limited But Welcome Step"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There seems to be a consensus among countries of the world in hailing the just-concluded oil-for-food deal between the U.N. and Iraq. Jordan of course was among the first to praise the accord as a significant breakthrough to alleviate the conditions of the Iraqi people. Alleviation of the suffering Iraqis has consistently been this country's top priority, and Jordanians can only be relieved that their brethren in Iraq are hopefully on the way to full recovery and reintegration in the international community.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, in welcoming the signing of the 51-paragraph memorandum of understanding on implementing Resolution 986, has described it as "a success for the Security Council," which directly brokered the deal. The U.S., on the other hand, came out strongly in support of the accord, with the American ambassador to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, calling it a "great victory" for the Iraqi people. But no matter who emerged as the political winner from the many rounds of negotiations, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the deal remains only a step towards a real solution to the problems in and around Iraq. In this context, it must be understood that the suffering in Iraq is not solely about material concerns although they are very important. "Man does not live on bread alone," we are reminded over and over again. Once the stomachs of the innocent Iraqi civilians are filled again and their bodies healed from diseases and illnesses, their minds and souls would start yearning for things that are even more sublime than bread and butter issues. Unlike animals, human beings starve for human rights and democracy as much as they suffer from the denial of food and medicine. We hope, therefore, that the ending of the plight of the Iraqi people would not be limited to the partial lifting of economic sanctions against their country but would be extended to the lifting of other restrictions affecting their daily lives.

Freedom of movement for Iraqis is among the most urgent needs. Contacts between Iraqis and the outside world have been very limited at best for nearly six years. if the full rehabilitation of Iraq into the international community is still far away, then the least that we should expect at this juncture is for the Iraqi people to gradually regain their human ad basic rights.

### Jordan: Armed Infiltrators Reportedly Belong to PFLP-GC

*JN2105173596 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 May 96 p 5*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian Armed Forces managed to arrest a terrorist cell as it was trying to cross into Jordan through the Syrian border last week. The cell was carrying large quantities of explosives, rockets, and machine guns with the aim of attacking political targets inside Jordan. As soon as the infiltrating terrorist cell was spotted near the al-Baqurah area, the Armed Forces closed the area and banned movement into or out of the area until they managed to arrest all the members of the cell and seized their weapons.

Informed government sources said that the members of the terrorist group belong to Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. It was held for being in possession of plans to strike at several Jordanian touristic targets and farmers in the al-Baqurah area, which Jordan recovered recently as a result of the peace treaty with Israel.

The same sources said that the terrorist cell was planning to deliver part of the shipment to pro-Jibril elements in Jordan to attack vital targets in Jordan, and to deliver some of the explosives to the self-rule areas to carry out suicide operations inside Israel.

Government sources say Syria is turning a blind eye to the repeated infiltrations from its territory because Damascus is worried about the presence of U.S. aircraft in northern and eastern Jordan. Damascus views that presence as a threat to its security. This explains why the Syrians are turning a blind eye to terrorist infiltrations from its territories into Jordan.

Government sources did not rule out an understanding between the terrorist group and Syria and Iran to undermine the Jordanian-Israeli peace and to create a state of border security tension between the two sides.

The large quantities of sophisticated weapons that were seized from the infiltrators prove that the terrorist cell planned to carry out not just one operation, but a series of operations. This proves that the Damascus-based Palestinian rejectionist groups still have the capability of stirring up a new wave of terrorist acts in the region, especially since they enjoy strong logistical support from Tehran and Damascus.

Sources affirm that Grad missiles were among the weapons that were confiscated. This indicates that there are terrorist groups inside Jordan in contact with terrorists in Damascus and plan to carry out a series of terrorist operations as soon as they receive the weapons so as to undermine Jordan's security and stability.

Interior Minister 'Awad Khulayfat told AL-BILAD in this regard that he does not have adequate information and that no reports have been submitted to him on the detention of the terrorist cell. He added that the government source that is authorized to make statements on such issues is Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, who is the official government spokesman. [passage omitted]

### Lebanon: Birri Refuses Reduction in UNIFIL Numbers

*NC2105173596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri reiterated that Lebanon insists on maintaining the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. He said in a statement today that Lebanon refuses anything that touches the role of these forces, as stipulated by UN resolution 425, under the pretext of setting up a security committee to monitor the cease-fire agreement in the framework of the April Understanding.

Speaker Birri added: April Understanding treats a cause, which is the recent Israeli aggression on civilians, while resolution 425 treats a goal, represented in confirming the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese lands, establishing peace and security, and helping the Lebanese Government restore actual sovereignty along the southern borders.

Speaker Birri pointed out that Lebanon strongly refuses any international submission to the Israeli pressures, which seek to cut the UNIFIL under the claim that it can perform its basic tasks with a smaller force. Since 1978, Israel has sought to eliminate the UN role in the Middle East, and particularly in south Lebanon, Birri said.

Birri praised the magnificent humane role the UN forces played in providing relief aid to the population during the recent Israeli aggression, pointing out that its personnel and establishments were endangered when they were subjected to Israeli attacks, the last of which was the brutal massacre against Lebanese civilians in a UN position in Qana.

### Lebanon: State Considers Complaint on Israeli 'Violation' of Accord

*NC2205063496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi hopes Washington talks will lead to the formation of a security committee to supervise the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon. He noted that obstacles are still hindering the formation of the committee. He said Lebanon is still thoroughly studying the possibility of filing a complaint against Israel's violation of the April Understanding and the shelling of civilians by Israeli soldiers. He said: There are certain situations in the UN Security Council that everybody knows about. We must prepare well for the complaint in order to ensure its success.

### Lebanon: Buwayz on Monitoring Committee's Disputed Points

*NC2105183396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 96*

[Statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at Beirut Airport before leaving for Germany—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] At this hour, some points are still disputed as far as the outlook of this [cease-fire monitoring] committee is concerned. I would like to repeat that we set out from a clear goal; namely, how to implement this understanding. If the goal is to find a comprehensive political solution, we believe that the peace process is the optimal mechanism. Hence, we do not want to develop new mechanisms. If what is needed is to reach a rudimentary security solution, resolution 425 and the implementation mechanism, included in resolution 426, constitute the best framework in which such a solution can be reached.

But if it is impossible to arrive at such solutions in the next few days or weeks, we have to try to pacify the situation by organizing operations to protect civilians until rudimentary solutions could be reached. This understanding suggests setting up a military rather than a political committee, since the problem is security related and not political. It needs an effective committee that moves freely on the ground, rather than one burdened down with apparatuses, titles, and complex mechanisms.

Hence, we still have disagreements with certain parties concerning the alternate chairmanship of the committee. Originally, we were not convinced of the need for a chairmanship. A committee of this sort needs a coordinator more than a chairman. But if this is necessary, we believe that a quick alternate chairmanship at monthly intervals is sufficient to run this committee.

As for the duration of complaints, in other words the period between the moment the complaint is filed and the moment the committee prepares its report on it—72 hours, we believe that there is a need to stop operations or [retaliatory] responses until the committee prepares its report. If we accept the right to respond or retaliate, we don't know how this committee will operate.

Hence, these points are still outstanding. In addition, there is another point concerning the decisionmaking process within the committee, whether decisions will be taken unanimously or by the majority, as well as the positions of the two sides of the complaint.

## Lebanon: Ambassador Cited on Washington Monitoring Committee Talks

*NC2205064396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ambassadors of Lebanon, Syria, and Israel in Washington and a French delegate will hold another meeting in Washington today under the chairmanship of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, to discuss the formation of a monitoring committee to supervise the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon. The five delegates met yesterday to discuss unresolved issues; namely, the deadline [for investigating complaints] and the committee's chairmanship. Lebanon and Syria rejected a formula proposed by Washington and Tel Aviv regarding the investigations period in the occupied border strip, and Lebanon stressed its sovereignty over this region. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Riyad Tabbarah said: Some progress has been made regarding some issues, but we have not reached a final solution; some points are yet to be resolved. In general, we reached a new text for each delegate to present to his government. We will see if the capitals will approve the text. The text was worded in a new way to make it acceptable to all. This formula will be sent to the capitals to be discussed with a view to reaching a final solution. We decided to hold another meeting today so that each delegate can contact his government. We hope this will be the last meeting.

Asked if there is any procrastination to delay the birth of the committee, the ambassador said: There are difficult things, and there are differences among positions. In the beginning, the gaps were wide, but we managed to narrow them. Naturally, we are working out a document that will be valid for a long time; it must be accurate, and this takes some time.

Tabbarah added: Lebanon is very eager to form the committee because it does not want a repetition of what happened recently. Lebanon is therefore very positive in its proposals. Israel is occupying Lebanese territory and Lebanon emphasizes its sovereignty over all its territory. Ambassador Tabbarah said the draft does not mention the security strip in southern Lebanon. He said investigations into claims on the Lebanese side of the border must be carried out under Lebanese supervision and on the Israeli side under Israeli supervision. He said a solution to some unresolved issues needs higher-level contacts. On the problem of alternate chairmanship between the United States and France, he said Lebanon and Syria are also involved in this. He explained that Lebanon, Syria, and France want the duration of the chairmanship to be less than six months, while Washington wants it to be six months.

Tabbarah said: There is Lebanon and there is Israel. Of course, there is an occupation of a part of our country, but as concerns sovereignty, we have our sovereignty over our side of the border. We can offer no concessions here, and I do not think there should be any concessions. Noting that the text mentions Lebanon and Israel, he said there is no need to mention the security strip in the agreement. I found no need to mention it in the agreement, he said. [passage omitted]

## Lebanon: Hizballah Warns U.S. Not To Intervene in Lebanon's Affairs

*LD2105141296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement of Lebanon, the Hizballah, has warned the American ambassador to Lebanon to refrain from intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. A member of the Lebanese Hizballah movement's council, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbak, said in Beirut yesterday: The United States is considered the enemy of Lebanese Muslims and Washington has nothing but enmity towards the anti-Zionist resistance.

The Lebanese daily AL-NAHAR wrote yesterday that the U.S. ambassador to Beirut is trying to avoid the presence of the Hizballah in the next parliament of Lebanon. The Lebanese parliamentary elections will be held in five months.

### Syria: Commentary Criticizes Israel's Lack of Desire for Peace

*JN2105182596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1139 GMT 21 May 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whoever hears the Israeli officials' statements and observes Israel's hostile behavior will see the type of arrogance that thrives in the climate of extremism which is escalating with the approach of the Israeli elections. Whoever follows Israel's actions and signs of its future plans will realize that a just and comprehensive peace is not among the considerations of Israeli officials who, on some occasions, did not hesitate to show false concern about the peace process which did not achieve anything tangible on the way to a just and comprehensive peace.

It is clear that Israel exaggerates its security concerns which constituted a profound obstacle before real progress in the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Israel set its security needs as a condition to obstruct the talks. This is because Israel did not take into consideration that security is a mutual issue. The Arabs, who are the victims of aggression and whose territories are occupied, cannot relinquish their rights, compromise on their land, or cede their security in order to meet Israel's security concepts which have always been used as a pretext for aggression, expansion, and occupation of Arab land. Israel used to come up with formulas that had no consideration for land and rights which necessarily constitute the crux of peace. Israel calls for achieving security for itself only, and for the normalization of relations as a condition for a humiliating peace which conflicts with the facts of history and geography and has no consideration for the Arabs' dignity.

The coining of the new Middle East expression by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is part of Israel's expansionist plans to impose political, economic, and security hegemony. We saw this at the Sharm al-Shaykh meeting which gave Israel a free hand to fight the so-called terrorism and execute its policy to dominate the region. The tragic adventure was in Lebanon. This led to an aggression which consequently led to a catastrophe which continues to threaten all hopes of peace as long as Israel does not realize the dangers posed by its policy of arrogance and resorting to force, terrorism, and imposing the language of war as a pressure and blackmail tool as an alternative to the language of peace and the means to achieve it.

He who launches aggression, aspires for expansion, and uses terrorism and blackmail does not want a just and comprehensive peace. He who pursues an armament policy, insists on achieving supremacy over all Arabs, and possesses weapons of mass destruction does not realize the consequences of this policy on security and peace in the region and the world. He who hastens to establish suspicious regional alliances with forces which basically ignore their people's true interests, and seeks to besiege the Arab region, after penetrating it, by military alliances, cannot be concerned about peace in the region, or about the future of this region which will continue to be a serious hotbed of tension and a powder keg which could explode at any moment as long as Israel does not show any respect for international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions; neither does it work for a real peace. Facts prove that peace should be either just and comprehensive and restores the Arab land and rights, or there should be no peace. When peace is achieved based on justice and comprehensiveness, it will then be the real prelude to stability in the region within the framework of equitable security arrangements which will continue to be mutual obligations, but cannot be just for one party at the expense of the other parties. Peace is in the interest of all sides in the region and the world. Therefore, it is not a gain for Israel only to understand it as being a concession that the Arabs make willingly or unwillingly. This a big fallacy in the world and history, for Israel is the only entity which sees its security through war, aggression, and conflict, and not through the achievement of peace which gives rights to their owners and guarantees the security and dignity of all sides.

### Syria: Damascus Radio Says Israel 'Violated' April Understanding

*JN1905133396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Southern Lebanon — The Israeli occupation forces this morning violated the April Understanding agreement by shelling residential Lebanese areas north of the occupied part of southern Lebanon. The Israeli marine forces also continued their blockade of the southern coast. They chased trawlers and confiscated fishing equipment. The Lebanese resistance responded by attacking an Israeli military patrol.

Security sources said the artillery of the occupation forces stationed in Qal'at al-Shaqif today shelled the towns of Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Hima Arnun, wounding a civilian Lebanese woman. She was transferred to the al-Nabatiyah Hospital for treatment. The sources said the artillery shelling was accompanied by Israeli warplane activity over the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

The national Lebanese resistance responded to the Israeli attacks by attacking an occupation forces' military patrol on the road leading to Qal'at al-Shaqif, using machine guns and rockets. The clash lasted more than 10 minutes and the Israeli artillery in Qal'at al-Shaqif got engaged in the clash. The national Lebanese resistance said in a statement on the operation that a number of the enemy personnel were killed or wounded. Israel today admitted that one Israeli soldier was wounded in clashes between an Israeli military force and national Lebanese resistance men near the village of Arnun, which is near the township of al-Shaqif in the occupied part of the south.

In the meantime, the Israeli marine forces are continuing the blockade of the southern Lebanese coast. Israeli gunboats chased Lebanese fishing boats near al-Qulaylah coast south of Tyre. Security sources said an Israeli gunboat ran into a Lebanese fishing boat carrying three fishermen, causing serious damage to the boat. The three fishermen, however, miraculously escaped death in this premeditated accident.

## Syria: Commentary—Peace Hostage to Israeli Election Bazaar

*JN1805141696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 May 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: One of the strange things that has been produced by the developments and events related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the long peace process is that peace has become hostage to Israeli domestic considerations and that people are hearing that the peace plan depends on one person or another. This makes the region's future and its stability dependent on the Israeli election bazaar.

Despite Syria's repeated assertion that the Israeli elections are of no business of our when it comes to the consideration of rights and our national and pan-Arab principles, it is important to note that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who raised the slogan that peace is more important than election results, announced an early date for the elections and suspended negotiations with Syria. He also went too far in his efforts to appease the fanatics through his savage aggression against Lebanon. Through his deeds and words, Peres is confirming that the election results are more important than anything else, including the peace that will benefit all the people in the region and the world.

This reveals that, contrary to Israeli claims, Israeli public opinion is still not prepared for peace. Israel is also asking the Arabs to prepare their public to accept not only peace, but also normalization, the opening of borders, and the establishment of all forms of ties, despite the fact that the occupation remains and rights continue to be usurped.

The current slogans are extremist and are not anywhere near the requirements of the just and comprehensive peace. This naturally agrees with what Israel has offered under its two governments — one Likud and one Labor — during the peace process from the Madrid Conference and to present.

Israel moves in two directions. The first relates to the separate deals and the incomplete bargains, the examples of which we saw in Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah. The second strategy is to violate all the facts of peace, avoid its requirements, and place obstacles to prevent it. This confirms one very well known fact: that Israel is searching for partial deals and treaties of submission and does not want the just and comprehensive peace that requires, primarily, an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories. Israel must also acknowledge the Arab nation's legitimate rights and stop all attempts to impose tutelage, hegemony, and the conditions of submission under glamorous slogans, such as regional cooperation and various normalization projects. Israel is ignoring the fact that peace is made through the law of right and justice and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and not through the law of force, injustice, and occupation and the law of the jungle. Israel is also ignoring the fact that the realities of history and geography cannot be annulled just because it feels that the defect in the world balance is in its favor.

The peace process has suffered several serious setbacks since it began more than four-and-a-half years ago. The reason has always been Israel's intransigence, its rejection of the principles of peace, and its attempt to dictate conditions and impose settlements that do not agree with the desired peace. The Israeli aggression against Lebanon was not very far from this strange kind of arrogance and this denial of facts, nor was it very far from an attempt to blackmail Syria and Lebanon in order to force them into accepting conditions other than those of the just and comprehensive peace and into accepting formulas that are not based on the land-for-peace formula and the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, which adopted the resolutions of international legitimacy as the basis to end occupation and injustice, remove the seeds of conflict, and provide the gateway to security and stability.

Israel does not seem to have made the decision for peace, which, it appears, remains subject to Israeli tactical considerations. It is now hostage to elections and personalities, none of whom has offered any clear indications or good intentions to fulfill the conditions of the just and comprehensive peace.

## Afghanistan

### Afghanistan: Islamic Unity Party Leader Meets With Iranian Ambassador

*LD2105181896 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, May 21, (IRNA) — Head of Central Council of a faction of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan (Islamic Unity Party) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Kabul Gholam Reza Haddadi on Tuesday [21 May] regretted the continued conflict in his country. He hoped that with a well-established Government in Afghanistan, the Afghan people could finally feel security and peace in their homeland.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari also hailed Iran's efforts aimed at bringing about peace and understanding in the country, asked all Afghan groups to opt for peace and friendship and resolve their differences through peaceful means.

The Iranian ambassador in the meeting outlined Iran's endeavers to put an end to the current conflicts in Afghanistan, hoping to witness a rapid solution to the situation and commencement of development activities in the neighbouring country. He also underlined Iran's continued assistance in reconstruction of the war-stricken country.

### Afghanistan: Ministry Rejects Drug, Terror Allegations by U.S. Officials

*LD2105173596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1230 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Afghan Government has rejected Mrs. Robin Raphel's remarks on drug cultivation and trafficking in Afghanistan. According to a report by our correspondent from Kabul, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman insisted that, taking into account international principles, the Afghan Government has fought against drug production and smuggling and is against all forms of terrorist and subversive activities.

Noting the remarks by the U.S. assistant secretary of state and some U.S. congressmen about the Afghan Government's activities in connection with drug trafficking and production, a foreign ministry spokesman said: At the 39th Session of the UN Commission [as heard] the Afghan Government's envoy called for taking into consideration the campaign against drugs while the UN General Assembly was discussing the matter.

The spokesman also rejected the accusation by some U.S. officials that some refugee camps were being used for training terrorists. Rejecting the allegations, he said that his country had always defended its independence and that the Afghan Government opposed terrorism.

## Bangladesh

### Bangladesh: New Army Chief Takes Command; Situation Reported 'Normal'

*BK2105123396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] New Army Chief Major General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman has assumed command of the Bangladesh Army. A press release today by the Interservice Public Relations Department says that discipline has returned at all levels in the Army, and the situation is now normal. It added that the soldiers who had earlier proceeded to Dhaka from the Bogra and Maymensingh areas have returned to their respective barracks.

Earlier, Maj. Gen. Mahbubur Rahman called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the President House and spent some time with him. Later, Army Chief Rear Admiral Nurul Islam [title as heard], and Air Commodore Shamsher Ali, acting Air Force chief, met the president.

### Bangladesh: AFP Reports Detention of 'Dozen Senior Officers'

*BK2205103496 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, May 22 (AFP)— Several senior army officers have been detained by government troops on charges of leading a revolt against President Abdur Rahman Biswas, military sources said Wednesday.

A dozen senior officers, holding ranks from brigadier to lieutenant colonel, have been arrested following the revolt triggered by deposed army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim's refusal to obey presidential orders and sack two of his commanding officers, the sources said.

The deputy commander of Mymensingh district, Brigadier Zillur Rahman, who moved troops towards the Bangladeshi capital to support Nasim but was stopped late Tuesday, was among them, they said. Troops who were with the officers at the time were also arrested, they added.

"Those arrested after Nasim were neutralised and detained," a source said.

Nasim has been placed under "protective custody" and the two officers he had tried to protect — Major General G.H. Morshed Khan, the Bogra district commander, and Brigadier Miran Hamidur Rahman, deputy director of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles — were also in custody. The government has not yet commented on the fate of the rebel army leaders, but said a "high-powered" military court of enquiry was to investigate the failed rebellion.

### Bangladesh: 'High-Power Court' To Investigate Military Revolt

*BK2105153896 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-power court of inquiry is being constituted to fix the responsibility and find out the facts relating to the incident that took place in the Bangladesh Army yesterday. A press release of the Interservice Public Relations department said that the court of inquiry will also identify the persons involved in the incident.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1449 GMT on 21 May also reports on the court of inquiry. It says: "The government has ordered a court of enquiry into Monday's partial military revolt in Bangladesh, the state-run television reported Tuesday.

"A high-powered court of enquiry is being constituted to find out the facts and fix responsibility as well as to indentify the persons involved in the incidents that took place in the Bangladesh army..." the television said, quoting a defence ministry statement.

"It gave no immediate details.

"The announcement followed the withdrawal of tanks from the presidential palace after the deposed army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim was taken into 'protective custody' and his successor Major General Mahbubur Rahman took full control after putting down the rebellion."]

### Bangladesh: Awami League Chief Fears Further Intervention by President

*BK2105145696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, May 21 (AFP) — Awami League party chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed Tuesday expressed her fears that Bangladesh president was continuing to intervene in the affairs of the caretaker government to foil the June 12 elections.

"People of the country have installed you to power to oversee the general elections and therefore you don't need to feel weak," she said, referring to caretaker government chief Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

But she questioned: "are you discharging your responsibilities freely or your activities are being interrupted" by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

This was Wajed's first rally since Biswas sacked army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim on Monday for fomenting rebellion.

Wajed, who has repeatedly demanded that the defence ministry be placed under Rahman, said the president's action ahead of the polls had proven her party's fears correct.

Biswas, a member of Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), is also the defence minister.

Wajed alleged the sacking was part of conspiracy by the BNP to destabilise the country ahead of the polls in a bid to upset the elections as it feared it would be defeated.

"Anybody in the government who does not extend support to its plot are facing BNP's wrath," she alleged.

Sammilita Nari Samaj or Combined Women Society, a women's voluntary organisation, echoed Wajed's fears warning Bangladeshis would not tolerate any conspiracy to foil the polls.

It charged during a downtown demonstration that Biswas had failed to discharge his duties neutrally.

Biswas has said that his actions were in line with the constitution and to restore discipline in the armed forces.

### Bangladesh: Commissioner Reports 'All-Out Efforts' for Fair Elections

*BK2105165896 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena has said all-out efforts have been taken to hold the 12th June elections in a free, fair, and neutral atmosphere within the stipulated time. Talking to BSS in Dhaka today, the chief election commissioner expressed firm conviction that the people from all walks of life—particularly the political parties and contesting candidates—will (?play) their roles for the sake of neutral and transparent elections.

Mr. Hena said, as per election rules, the contending political parties and candidates will launch the election campaign all over the country from tomorrow. He urged the political leaders and workers to have restraint and maintain peace and discipline by demonstrating tolerance and patience during the election campaign.

### Bangladesh: Over 2,500 Candidates Contesting Elections

*BK2205072796 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The election campaign begins throughout the country today. According to the provisions of the Representation of the People's Order the contesting candidates can begin the election campaign (?three) weeks before the polling day.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena has urged political leaders and workers to practice restraint and maintain peace and discipline by demonstrating patience and tolerance during the election campaign. He said that the commission has prepared for the printing of 60 million ballot papers. Measures are also being taken to send these ballot papers to respective polling centers at the appropriate time. The chief election commissioner said that the election process has been completed, and added that a total of 2,569 candidates belonging to different political parties as well as independents are participating in this election. Mr. Abu Hena further added that the Election Commission has allocated election symbols for 119 political parties to enable them to participate in the elections.

He said the government has taken several measures to ensure the impartial holding of elections. The chief election commissioner further added that the law and order situation has improved since the caretaker government took office. During this period, the police recovered 2,516 arms and arrested 30,515 persons under the Arms Act.

## India

### India: Prime Minister Vajpayee Interviewed

*BK2105162096 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 May 96 p 11*

["Excerpts" of an interview with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee by Janak Singh in Delhi; date not given — first two paragraphs are THE TIMES OF INDIA introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nothing has changed at Atal Behari Vajpayee's residence on Raisina Road except for the large number of plainclothes security guards carrying cellular phones and screening visitors. His simple drawing room has not acquired any prime ministerial trappings. A portrait of Jayaprakash Narain adorns one of the walls just like it always has. Mr Vajpayee is a candid admirer of the socialist leader. There are no hangers-on milling around for effect. An important meeting is clearly on the agenda since Bhairon Singh Shekhawat is waiting to meet him. Mr Shekhawat is the Rajasthan chief minister and heads the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] task force garnering support for the minority government.

Mr Vajpayee is warm and relaxed, but his tone is measured in keeping with his new responsibilities. He goes to great lengths to explain the nuance of what he is saying. Excerpts from an interview with Janak Singh:

Q: How can your government survive? The Akali Dal, the Samata Party, the Haryana Vikas Party are supporting you without sharing power. All other parties are scheming to topple you.

A: There is no doubt that my government is weak at the moment. We are trying to enlist the support of regional parties and if these attempts are successful it should be reflected when the new MPs assemble here for the parliamentary session.

But the question is not of survival of a BJP-led coalition. The electorate have thrown up a hung Parliament. Leaders of all parties should rise to the occasion and seek what best can be done to deal with the situation instead of scheming against each other. Unless we cooperate and understand the gravity of the situation we are in for trouble.

I have had talks with Chandra Shekhar and leaders of other parties. They agree when their attention is drawn to the scenario that might unfold if BJP-led coalition is voted out. But then, they have their own ideas, say differing things. What can you do in such a situation?

Q: You have already surrendered on Article 370, construction of the Ram temple, uniform civil code. With its identical stand on economic reforms, the BJP seems to be becoming the new incarnation of the Congress.

A: Don't say that. Whatever is mentioned in our manifesto will be implemented to the last dot.

The problem is in the present situation: we don't have a full mandate but nevertheless have been called upon to rule, we have to make compromises. When we obtain the full mandate we shall implement all that is there in the manifesto. Lest I should be misunderstood, it does not mean going roughshod over the feelings and sentiments of minorities. Everybody has a place and a right in our great country. Things can be sorted out if you have the will. We'll demonstrate this in the days to come.

Q: You are willing to compromise with other parties on the question of electing a new Speaker. You have already diluted your stand on issues dear to your party. You seem to be heading a government of compromises.

A: When there is no clear mandate in favour of any party, this can't be helped. But this does not mean that the BJP has undergone a change. When the people vote for us overwhelmingly we shall do whatever they desire. Now that we can remain in power only in coalition with other parties it naturally keeps us from doing all that we had promised. The only solution is for the people to vote for us overwhelmingly.

Q: Though you have been installed in office, you lack the majority. How will you take important decisions on behalf of the whole country?

A: Whatever the nature of the mandate, the party in office has to take decisions. Of course we could be criticised for committing the country to a course to which the majority of people are opposed, especially when we don't have the mandate. For the governance of the country, decisions important or otherwise have to be taken. However, we shall see if certain matters can wait so that no decisions are taken regarding them until a fully representative government is in office.

Q: It seems the BJP government would seek to settle old scores, judging from the statement of law minister that Narasimha Rao would be prosecuted in the St Kitts case [money laundering case].

A: The BJP is not known for witch-hunting. The government would not interfere with the due process of law regardless of the fact that its own party members are at the receiving end. We want to uphold the law, not destroy or undermine it.

Q: There are reports that the BJP will renominate Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma for inviting you to form the government.

A: There is no basis for such reports. The President invited the BJP because it was the largest party. It is unfortunate that the President is being unduly criticised for this.

Q: There are reports that the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh] chief has issued a directive to the government against sacrificing basic RSS principles for the sake of power.

A: This is nonsense. The fact is that I have not met Raju Bhaiya for long, though I would be happy to meet him. The RSS has not issued any directive. It is a separate organisation. In any case, what is this RSS bogey? Is patriotism love for your religion bad? No document in the RSS literature preaches hatred against any other community. I don't understand why attempts continue to be made to depict this organisation as a bug bear.

Q: Will you give India a bomb?

A: Don't ask an interim Prime Minister such a loaded question.

Q: Will Indo-American relations improve under your stewardship?

A: This is not the time for such a query.

### India: At Least 12 Killed, 27 Injured in Major Bomb Blast in Delhi

*BK2105155196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least 12 people have been killed and about 27 injured in a major blast in Lajpat Nagar market in South Delhi this evening. According to eyewitnesses, the bomb was planted in a car, which blew up as high as 20 feet and its parts flung as far as 100 meters. A major fire started as a result of the explosion, which is in the process of being controlled. Twenty-five fire tenders have reached the spot. Many more bodies are believed buried in the basement and many are trapped inside the building. However, the official figure of the death toll is being put at seven. A number of small shops and vehicles have been smashed beyond recognition. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Panic-stricken shoppers ran hither-thither in search of shelter. A major fire engulfed the five-story building. I could see five badly charred bodies being removed. Bomb was planted in a Maruti car parked outside the building. Several (?makeshift) shops and vehicles nearby were entirely smashed. [end recording]

### India: Kashmiri Separatists Claim Responsibility for Delhi Bombing

*BK2105161896 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, May 21 (AFP) — Two Muslim militant groups from Kashmir claimed responsibility for the powerful blast which killed 15 people Tuesday in one of New Delhi's busiest shopping complex, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

PTI said an unnamed caller telephoned the news agency to claim responsibility for the Lajpat Nagar Central Market blast. The unidentified caller declined to give his name but said he was a spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front separatist organisation.

"The Front and the Lashkar-E-Sajjad (Kashmiri separatist group) has taken this serious step to thwart the (Indian) government's efforts to hold elections in the (Kashmir) Valley," PTI quoted the caller as saying. "The act was also to take revenge for the killings in Kashmir," PTI said of the caller's terse statement.

The unnamed caller claimed he was telephoning from strife-torn Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar, urban hub of a bloody Muslim separatist drive which has left more than 12,000 people dead in the northern Indian state since 1989.

The police said they were investigating.

### India: Police— No Claims of Responsibility for Delhi Blast

*BK2205051396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to latest official reports, the death toll in yesterday's bomb blast in Lajpat Nagar in South Delhi has gone up to 13. Earlier, agency reports had put the toll at 25. Another 38 persons injured in the blast have been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mulchand, Safderjung, and Ram Manohar Lohia hospitals besides private nursing homes. According to police, some of the injured are said to be in a critical condition.

The union home minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, and the Delhi chief minister, Mr. Saheb Singh Verma, visited the hospitals where the injured are under treatment. Dr. Joshi has directed the authorities to take utmost care of the injured people. He has announced an ex gratia grant of one lakh rupees each to the next of kin of the deceased and 50,000 rupees to the seriously injured. Dr. Joshi said security agencies have been put on alert to avoid such incidents in future.

The prime minister has expressed deep shock and grief at the incident. Mr. Vajpayee said that no efforts would be spared to bring the culprits to book. The police have cordoned off the entire area and investigations are in progress. According to police sources, no organization or group has claimed responsibility so far for the blast.

### India: BJP Making Extra Effort To Project 'Image of Consensus'

*BK2205072196 Madras THE HINDU in English 21 May 96 p 10*

[Article by K.K. Katyal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An absorbing experience, indeed, to watch the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] switch from the opposition to the ruling party, with all the handicaps, imposed by the fractured election verdict. A toning down of the poll rhetoric is usual in such cases but the BJP is making extra efforts to project an image of consensus and compromise. The new Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, known for his moderation and genial temperament, could be an asset — in fact, he is not regarded as the true representative of the BJP and others have found it easy to do business with him. But the space available to him for manoeuvre is limited, with the result that he cannot go beyond cosmetic gestures, marginal adjustments. He cannot fall foul of the hard-headed cadres. The Nagpur establishment may not mind his moderation and may even encourage it up to a point, but a major departure from the party's Hindutva agenda would not be liked. That is Mr. Vajpayee's dilemma. To take specific cases, is Mr. Vajpayee in a position to announce a moratorium on behalf of his party (in office or out of office, especially in the first case) on its pet demands for (1) the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution that accords a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, (2) a common civil code and (3) construction of a Ram temple at the site of the demolished structure in Ayodhya and the campaigns in Kashi and Mathura? He may go slow (in case the BJP government wins the confidence vote in the Lok Sabha and the policy of cultivating friends is to be pursued vigorously), but he cannot afford to be categorical in public.

There will be no escape from a go-slow in the present context — any party in office would soon become aware of the limitations and compulsions, coming in the way of the promises, made generously in the election campaign rhetoric. The BJP rulers would not take long (if they stay in office) to realise that the Kashmir problem cannot be resolved (in the internal setting, leaving aside the external one) if Article 370 were to be abrogated, that enforcement of a uniform civil code, howsoever desirable, is not a practical proposition in the face of stiff resistance by the minorities, or that the Ayodhya issue needs to be settled through negotiations, and all around consent. By insisting on the end of the special status for Jammu and Kashmir, will the BJP not lose the support of the Akali Dal, the ardent advocate of the widest possible autonomy for the States (they are mainly concerned with Punjab)? Or could it approach the Telugu Desam or the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] for help, if its stand on Centre-State relations continues to be rigid?

There are several other dilemmas for the BJP and its leaders. Politics in India has both positive and negative features — on the one hand, we witness the spurt of casteist and parochial trends while, on the other, there is the keenness to accommodate diverse interests. The second trend is evident in such cases as the actions of Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav's party and of Mr. Kanshi Ram's BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] to field high-caste candidates. Likewise, the BJP bends over backwards to allay the fears of the Muslims, saying they could expect a better deal from it than from the "secularists" who used the minorities as mere vote banks. However, the BJP cannot go beyond certain limits — and it will not be easy to convince others. The actions of the Shiv Sena-

BJP government in Maharashtra, for instance, will not inspire confidence, the reassuring words from the new Central government notwithstanding.

Some other problems of the BJP. Once known as the party of urban trading communities and the upper classes, the BJP has taken conscious steps to woo the backward sections, the scheduled castes and tribes, the rural poor and middle-class farmers, to widen its support base. The party's success in Bihar and its performance in U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] (though not up to its expectations, but at par with its showing in 1991) could be ascribed to the success of this strategy. Long associated with the North and "Hindi imperialism", it has not been able to make a dent in the South. In the electoral context, its presence in Tamil Nadu and Kerala is nil, in Andhra Pradesh negligible and in Karnataka so-so. In the North-East, too, it has failed to make an impression. Its share of votes, though higher than at anytime in the past, is still one-fourth of the total. It will not be easy for the party to get over these handicaps (in the case of its survival in the test of strength) and to be acceptable to various sections, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups and regions. On security and foreign policy issues, the BJP has no problems and its stand is far from ambiguous. Its manifesto spells out its stand with all the nuances and details presented cogently. On most issues, its ideas are no different from the policies followed by the Congress(I), or advocated by the Janata Dal or even the Left parties. The same stress on a nuclear-free world, the same opposition to discriminatory regimes like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the same concern over the security environment and the urgency for effective steps to safeguard the country's security and integrity. It would like the missile programme to be pursued vigorously, with the Prithvi deployed and the Agni developed faster than has been the case so far. It would like the nuclear option to be exercised, as against the Congress(I) government's deliberate ambiguity, with a promise to review the policy, should Pakistan go ahead with its nuclear plans. Here again, a BJP government (in the case of survival) would discover the limitations to its manoeuvrability and be forced to tone down the rhetoric. It favours a tough line on Pakistan, especially in relation to the so-called "Azad" Kashmir, But on that issue, there is an all-party commitment, as reflected by a Parliamentary resolution. The absence of foreign policy issues in the election rhetoric clearly suggested a broad consensus. In the past, there used to be sharp differences on non-alignment. (Remember the Janata Party's noises about "genuine" non-alignment in 1977-78). But that is a dead issue now, thanks to the disappearance of the rival military blocs.

The BJP's economic policy puts stress on "swadeshi" or economic nationalism and that makes it different from the policies of the Congress(I) government. The BJP's role on the Enron episode, coupled with the emphasis on swadeshi, caused consternation among foreign investors. But the new ruling party lost no time in pledging itself to continuity — and as the reaction in the U.S. to the BJP government shows, there is no worry abroad on this count. The industry has reacted enthusiastically to the advent of the BJP era (even while realising it may be brief as shown by the behaviour of the stock exchanges). Here again pragmatism, from which there is no escape if you are in office cannot but induce moderation.

Mr. Vajpayee, who has kept the External Affairs portfolio with himself, had handled: as a minister in the Janata Party government, for nearly two years — and committed no faux paus. As a matter of fact, he was associated with a major breakthrough in Indo-Pakistan relations, which, then as now were none too happy. I covered his visit to Pakistan and his talks with the then military dictator of that country, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq. That trip was far more exciting, far more rewarding than any other assignment abroad of this type. That was the first visit at the level of external affairs minister after a gap of 15 years (the last one being by Swaran Singh). Both in his talks with the Pakistani hosts and in public appearances, he conducted himself admirably. The stress on the Shimla Agreement as a framework for resolving bilateral differences was the refrain of his utterances. At a press conference in Rawalpindi, a Pakistani correspondent enquired: "How come you swear by the Shimla Agreement now but when it was signed, you led a torchlight procession in Delhi to protest against it?" Mr. Vajpayee's reply: "When it was signed, I belonged to the Jana Sangh which was opposed to the Agreement. Now I belong to the Janata Party, which is committed to fashioning Indo- Pakistan relations on its basis." A big applause followed.

Otherwise, the Vajpayee era in the foreign office was not marked by any major initiative. "The foreign policy is formulated by Morarji Desai (the prime minister), implemented by Jagat Mehta (the foreign secretary), what does Atalji do?" This was a query during a lighter talk in a small group. "Atalji translates it into Hindi," was my response, in the midst of loud laughter. Times have changed. the options before India are hard. Economic relations now add another dimension of foreign relations, the pressures from the Western powers have increased, the security climate has worsened, the relationship with the neighbours are far more challenging and Pakistan's posture is far more menacing. The conduct of foreign policy now requires greater skill and tact than is involved in translating it into Hindi.

### India: Sangma Common Candidate for Speaker; Lok Sabha Meets 22 May

*BK2105121596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress and the Third Front have decided to put up Mr. P.A. Sangma as the common candidate for the speaker's post in the Lok Sabha. The Congress spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi today that it was decided after party president Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's consultations with Mr. Deve Gowda. The speaker's election is scheduled for Thursday [23 May].

The first session of the 11th Lok Sabha begins tomorrow. The newly elected members will take the oath tomorrow and the day after. The pro tem speaker, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, will administer the oath to them. During the brief crucial session, the house will elect the speaker and take up confidence motion in the Vajpayee government as directed by the president. The Rajya Sabha session begins on the 24th. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, will address the joint session of both the houses on that day.

### India: Sikander Bakht Named External Affairs Minister

*BK2105130096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister, Mr. Sikander Bakht, has been given the portfolio of external affairs. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique, Mr. Bakht will also retain the urban affairs and employment portfolio.

### India: Kashmir Governor Affirms Fairness of Polls

*BK2205051196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that parliamentary elections in the state will be absolutely free and fair. He said nobody should have any doubt about the impartiality of the administration in the conduct of the elections. He was addressing senior officials of police and security forces in Srinagar after reviewing the overall security situation and arrangements for tomorrow's poll in Anantnag and Baramula constituencies.

### India: U.S. 'Blackmail' on Nuclear Issue Challenge to Vajpayee

*BK2105065396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 May 96 p 8*

[Report by K.P. Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the Clinton administration's public commitment to a "good, sound and stable relationship" with India's new government the signals emanating from Washington ought to profoundly disturb Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who has retained foreign policy under his charge.

On the very day when it became clear that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] would emerge as the largest single party in the new Lok Sabha, the Clinton administration announced that it would not impose even token sanctions on China for having sold 5,000 ring magnets for Pakistan's gas centrifuge plants which enrich nuclear weapons grade uranium.

A few days earlier, the U.S. Administration threatened to start dispute settlement proceedings against India in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) within a month unless the new government in New Delhi enacted legislation on intellectual property rights.

Similarly, almost until the very eve of the meeting of senior officials of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Indonesia on May 10, the U.S. held out against admitting India into the ARF, the nascent security arrangement for South Asia. The Americans gave up their opposition to India's admission only when they were convinced that Washington's obstinacy on this issue could be counter-productive in the face of the unanimous stand of the ASEAN that India should join the ARF.

In the days after the swearing in of the BJP government, American officials have been at their persuasive best both in New Delhi and in Washington, rationalising to their Indian counterparts the Clinton administration's opposition to India on all these three issues.

There is no doubt at all that the U.S. position on all these issues is "correct" and that the Clinton administration has strictly followed the letter of the law. But relations between countries are seldom built by the rule book or by "correct" conduct to the point of being negative.

There is a pattern to the Clinton administration's warnings and opposition to India in recent weeks which fits in with the way Washington has been needling New Delhi for several years, be it on relations with Pakistan or Iran or on the nuclear issue. The U.S. Administration's objective is to make the new government fall in line with its own world vision or face consequences which a weak or unstable political set-up in New Delhi may find hard to stand up to.

Of the three issues on which the U.S. has now chosen to target India, the ring magnets issue is probably the most serious and damaging to this country's security interests. The decision to exonerate China on this issue did not come out of the blue. For over three months, the Americans have been ostensibly agonising over their inability to do anything about Pakistan's quest for nuclear weapons, which flies in the face of President Bill Clinton's professed commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.

Yet, almost on the eve of a new government taking over in New Delhi, the Clinton administration announced that it had decided to bury the hatchet with China for having assisted Islamabad's unsafeguard nuclear programme. If Washington's decision was questionable, the excuse which State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns put out for letting China off the hook was bizarre.

Following a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in The Hague on April 19, Beijing had assured Washington that China will no longer provide assistance to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. Even as Burns confirmed that the ring magnets had been sold to Pakistan — which will continue to keep them — he underplayed the transaction because of its low monetary value of just about $70,000.

What strains the Clinton administration's credibility most in the entire episode is its willingness — even eagerness — to accept the Chinese argument that the Central government in Beijing was unaware of the sale. The exoneration of China in this case is typical of how far the U.S. is prepared to bend over backwards both in accommodating Chinese yardsticks on nuclear non-proliferation and in turning a blind eye towards Pakistan's quest for nuclear weapons.

It is also a reminder to the new government that double standards on non-proliferation have been institutionalised by the Clinton administration as part of its disarmament policy. The ring magnets episode ought to reinforce both the BJP government's determination to stand up to U.S. blackmail on the nuclear issue and its commitment to the nuclear policy outlined in the ruling party's election manifesto.

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## India: Nuclear Industry Seen as Unsafe

*BK1805142696 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 16 May 96 p 8*

[Article by Darryl D'Monte: "Doom Without a View"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nuclear industry here will be considerably sobered by a recent report by the Safety Energy Communication Council in Washington. It has described the industry as operating "some of the world's most accident prone and inefficient nuclear facilities". The report is bound to be dismissed in New Delhi as a plot by the United States to restrain India from proceeding with its nuclear energy programme. Some believe the country has made rapid strides in the programme, earning it the envy of the other developing countries, Pakistan not the least.

However, the report incorporates the latest appraisal of nuclear plants and corroborates arguments repeatedly made by Indian critics. The latter have, more often than not, been disregarded as unscientific, ill informed malcontents.

The council pays tribute to the undeniable strides made by the industry's scientific establishment, but points to the programme's technical delays and cost overruns. That the government scaled down its goal of producing 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the turn of the century to 6,050 MW speaks for itself.

By last year, the total capacity of the 10 reactors in India amounted to 1,695 MW — less than one percent of the nation's electricity. What is more, given the pace at which thermal and hydroelectric power plants are being privatised, and the amount of foreign investment flowing into the sector, the percentage produced by nuclear power is likely to fall further in the next few years. The council adds that even if the four nuclear plants under construction go on stream, they will add only 808 MW, totalling 2,503 MW — a quarter of the projected capacity.

All over the world, with the exception of a handful of countries like France, the promise of nuclear power has been belied. There was an euphoric era when it was believed nuclear power would be too cheap to metre. The real warning came with the Three Mile Island accident in the US, where a catastrophe was narrowly averted. For all of its vaunted safeguards, one of the most sophisticated plants in the world was vulnerable to human or mechanical error. Like nuclear war, there is always the lurking fear someone will press the wrong button.

The true horrors of nuclear disaster were revealed with Chernobyl, which alerted the world to the tremendous risks associated with this form of energy. Overnight, nuclear power became a dirty expression. Germany has since stopped constructing new plants and none has been commissioned in the US for 20 years. These are among the countries, apart from Scandinavia and the Netherlands, where environmental awareness is the highest in the world.

India, fortunately, has not witnessed a major accident. But ever since doubts were raised about the safety of the Tarapur atomic power plant's obsolete technology, which was provided by a subsidiary of General Electric, the record has been suspect.

Reportedly even the atomic energy regulatory board, which has consistently defended the industry against its critics, has recently submitted a confidential report listing 150 risk prone situations in different units in the department of atomic energy. The report notes how nine storage tanks in Tarapur each contain 200,000 litres of radioactive liquid waste collected over several years. This, the report says, "could result in a catastrophe much worse than Chernobyl".

Two decades ago, Paul Jacob, a US investigative journalist who devoted his lifetime to exposing the lapses in nuclear plants, wrote in a San Francisco based magazine, Mother Jones, how he had seen workers in the Tarapur plant stirring radioactive wastes with a long bamboo pole. Although such antiquated methods are hopefully gone, it is still alleged that contract workers continue to be used frequently in these plants.

There is thus no record of their exposure to radioactivity over a long period of time. All workers are required to have their exposure badges checked at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Trombay. Temporary workers are exempt from this, however.

Typically, the AERB chairman, A. Gopalakrishnan, has rushed to the defence of the nuclear establishment and stated deficiencies in any installation do not amount to a hazard. This is presumably what scientists kept saying at Chernobyl.

The Indian government is erecting a nuclear power station at Kaiga, bang in the middle of dense forests in the Western Ghats in Karnataka. The plant will probably be the only one in the world to be built at such an environmentally sensitive location. Portions of the Kaiga structure have already collapsed, raising serious doubts about the credibility of the country's nuclear power engineers. In nuclear industry an accident can cause havoc beyond the national frontiers and for years to come. The survivors of Chernobyl know what this means.

The nuclear fuel complex in Hyderabad, which uses extremely sophisticated metallurgical technology, has also been castigated for dumping waste carelessly. Anti-nuclear activists like Surendra Gadekar have also drawn attention to genetic abnormalities in newborns around nuclear power plants like Kakrapar in Gujarat and Rawatbhatta in Rajasthan.

The authorities pooh pooh such disorders in the absence of adequate baseline data. Without this they believe it is impossible to blame nuclear plants for genetic problems. They allege in a poor and malnourished rural society in Rajasthan cases of Down's syndrome and other abnormalities are common. Nevertheless, the cases which activists have documented merit a thorough examination.

Doubts are raised about nuclear plants during their operation. But the risk is even greater in their decommissioning, for which Tarapur is due. Nowhere in the world has a nuclear plant been decommissioned safely. Often buried under concrete, there is no telling a leakage will not occur, leading to radioactive contamination.

About 14 years ago, the cost of dismantling a 1,000 MW plant in the US was estimated at one billion dollars. The estimate has multiplied several times since. The disposal of waste is also tricky. As environmental awareness increases, the cost of safe storage is bound to increase, making the entire economics of running a nuclear power plant even more unenviable.

The department of atomic energy is trying to follow the French example of vitrifying nuclear waste, turning it into glass form, or storing it in special sites. But there are no really "safe" locations in a densely populated country like India.

The problem with nuclear energy is the sheer lack of public knowledge about the risks and the actual costs involved. Under the present atomic energy legislation, even Parliament can be denied information about the industry. Its cost benefit ratios have, therefore, never been calculated, unlike in other public projects where billions have been spent.

At a face to face meeting in Bangalore organised by the department in 1988, it promised to set up repositories where information about the industry would be stored for public access. Till date information is available at the BARC only and this is out of bounds to people.

It is time the nuclear power industry was exposed to public scrutiny so that the public can opt for the power source that it chooses.

## India: Article Views Country's Entry Into ARF

*BK1805152096 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 96 p 10*

[Article by S.D. Muni: "India Enters ASEAN's Strategic Equation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The way for India's participation in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) for security affairs has finally been cleared following the decision taken at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting, held in Indonesia on May 10.

When India was admitted as a full dialogue partner of ASEAN last December, many analysts thought membership of the ARF would follow automatically. That was not to be. Objections came from many quarters. Pakistan has been competing with India in ASEAN since India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner in 1992. When India was accepted as a full dialogue partner, Pakistan also lobbied for similar status, which is a precondition for ARF membership. Pakistan tried its best to exploit its Muslim identity and OIC connections with Indonesia Malaysia and Brunei in this regard but was politely told by them that it could not be equated with India.

### India's Membership

Reservations were also expressed against India's membership of the ARF by China, on the one hand and the US and its allies like Japan and Canada, on the other. A common consideration on both sides was to keep India confined to South Asia. In addition, China wanted to stop India from participating in the ARFs undeclared game of counterbalancing China. The Chinese were, however, discreet in not voicing their reservations openly. If anything, it was the US hesitation which blocked India's entry into the ARF so far.

US reservations have mainly been of a politico-strategic character. The US suspects that while India's presence in the ARF may help in evolving a regional balance to keep Chinese expansionist ambitions in the region contained. it will also tilt the regional balance to the dislike of the US. India could easily team up with China, Russia, and ASEAN members to embarrass the US on specific issues. In the US perception, India's presence will also help ASEAN members consolidate the ARF's 'Asian Character' and not allow it to become an appendage of the US and Western strategy in the region. That is how the US viewed ASEAN's support for India's ARF membership and opposition to that of Britain and France. US objections were also due to India's refusal to follow the Western line on global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament issues. The ASEAN countries realised the depth of US reservations and took India into confidence, suggesting that New Delhi take them up with Washington bilaterally. India did so and achieved its goal of getting the US to drop its objections only a couple of days before the May 10 meet in Indonesia. It is somewhat intriguing that US has suddenly changed its stance in India's favour. It is to be hoped that Indian officials have not extended any unworthy assurances to the US on CTBT or other sensitive strategic issues and the new government may have to make this position clear.

In the past few weeks, China's military assertion in the Taiwan straits and greater Sino-Russian cooperation against "hegemonic forces" evident during President Yeltsin's visit to China might have made the US move faster on containing China in the Asia-Pacific region, within and outside the ARF. India's significance as a factor in this regard is clearly realised by the US and others. It is interesting to note that the two newly admitted ARF members are India and Myanmar, both of whom have a common border and a common concern vis-a-vis China. Finally, the US may also have realised that India is better inside ARF than outside it, even from the point of view of nuclear non- proliferation. In December 1995, ASEAN declared Southeast Asia a nuclear weapons-free zone (NWFZ). India's entry would, in effect, amount to its acceptance of the NWFZ concept.

### New Opportunities

India's membership of ARF exposes it to the emerging strategic order in the Asia-Pacific region, an order which is full of new opportunities and challenges. It will certainly facilitate the process of greater economic and strategic engagement with this dynamic region which India has already initiated for the past five years on a bilateral basis. While making the best of this opportunity, India will have to make sure ARF membership does not unduly restrain its autonomy and resilience in Asia. Since Asia Pacific patterns of engagement are complex and subtle, India may have to learn to develop greater transparency and a diverse foreign policy style, including preference for track-II diplomacy and informal/non governmental channels of communication, from which Indian policy makers have hitherto been shying away.

### India: Need To Focus on South Asian Integration Viewed

*BK2005060496 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 96 p 10*

[Editorial: "ARF and After"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After more than four months of uncertainty, India has finally been invited to join the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the South-East Asian grouping's platform for security related matters. This is as much a triumph for Indian diplomacy as it is for pragmatism and good sense on ASEAN's part. Although India was made a "full dialogue partner" at the latter's Bangkok summit last December, the U.S. and Japan immediately expressed their reservations. Among other things, India's refusal to cooperate with the West's nuclear agenda was held as "proof" of its alleged lack of maturity as a regional power. Fortunately, ASEAN did not waver in its determination to be the sole judge of what is in its best interest and India will now participate in regional security meetings on a par with the U.S., the European Union, Japan, Australia and others. But even as a new vista for Indian foreign policy opens up, there is a need to take a measured view of what exactly membership in the ARF entails. For the ASEAN countries, the ARF is a way of transforming the security and military interests of outsiders into a factor for stability in the region. For Washington, the ARF is part of the containment scaffolding it would like to see erected around China. Since it is by no means clear that New Delhi can be recruited in its plan to isolate Beijing, the U.S. has not been very enthusiastic about India joining the ARF. In particular, the Clinton administration was irked by India's refusal to join the orchestrated hysteria surrounding China's recent military exercises in the straits of Taiwan. The challenge for India, therefore, will be to participate in the ARF without getting drawn into any balance of power equations between the big powers.

India should also not err in assuming a closer economic relationship with ASEAN will automatically follow membership in the ARF. With Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar yet to be fully absorbed within the fold, ASEAN's main priority on the economic front is bound to be the deepening of intra-regional integration. Apart from the stated objective of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) by 2003, emphasis is being placed on developing the so-called "growth triangles" — free trade oases in border regions of two or more ASEAN states — in which investment is being pushed with the active participation of the governments involved. At present, there are three such zones. The first links Singapore and border districts of Malaysia and Indonesia. The second links southern Thailand with northern Malaysia and Sumatra. The third, and most successful to date, connects Mindanao in the Philippines with Brunei, Borneo and Kalimantan in Indonesia. Another triangle is to be in the Mekong river basin, tying Thailand with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. For geographical reasons India cannot be part of any future growth triangles. While looking East is important in order to lessen our dependence on the West, India needs to focus more on South Asian integration. Most of all we should not make the mistake of thinking a link with ASEAN will provide a short-cut to prosperity.

## Iran

### Iran: Military Exercise To Mark Liberation of Khorramshahr 23 May

*LD2005185096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps will hold a military exercise, codenamed Beyt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], in order to mark the anniversary of Khorramshahr's liberation [from Iraqi occupation].

According to a Central News Unit report, the exercise will be held north of Khorramshahr on 23 May. During this amphibious exercise a brigade from the Vali-ye Asr Division will cross the river [Bahmanshir] to enter the town of Khorramshahr.

### Iran: 150,000 Troops, 10 Divisions in 'Velayat' Military Exercise

*LD2105151496 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Tehran Prov., May 21, IRNA — The grand military exercise of the army codenamed 'Velayat' will be performed in the suburbs of the holy city of Qom, in southern Tehran, on Thursday and Friday with the participation of 150,000 army personnel and in an area of 5,400 square kilometers.

Commander of the military exercise General Seyyed Hadi Golestaneh said that the central 'Velayat' headquarters and three other headquarters of 'Fath', 'Zafar' and 'Zolfaqar' will supervise over the performance of the operational, support and logistic forces taking part in the maneuvers. He said several infantry and armored divisions, six independent brigades, several squadrons of the air force and army air division (Havaniruz) will take part in the two- day military exercise.

General Golestaneh further added that the maneuvers will be carried out in five phases including delayed operations, counterattacks, night offensives, day assaults, continued offensive and deployment of forces on the hypothetical borders. He said that the objective of the Velayat military exercise is to display the combat power of the ground forces and convey the experiences of the past to the young army personnel.

Chief of Staff of the Army Major General 'Ali Shahbazi said that the Velayat military exercise would be the largest maneuvers both before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution. He told IRNA that the maneuvers are unprecedented in the Middle East in terms of the number of forces and the extent of the operations.

He said a considerable number of armored vehicles including hundreds of tanks and personnel carriers, about one hundred choppers and hundreds of artillery batteries would be deployed in the Velayat military exercise. General Shahbazi said over 10 infantry and armored divisions, six independent brigades and artillery, engineering and telecommunication regiments will take part in the maneuvers. He said that in the course of the Velayat maneuvers, the army personnel will put into practice what they have gained in theory.

Major General Shahbazi further added that contrary to some countries which put emphasis on the offensive aspects of their army, the Islamic Republic of Iran merely stressed the defensive power of its military forces. He said the military exercise will be carried out according to the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and the sublime teachings of Islam.

Commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran General Habib Baqa'i said that such a grand military exercise is being held for the first time in the Iranian history. General Baqa'i said the objective for performing the maneuvers was to create fear in the hearts of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and increase the combat readiness of the army. He said that Velayat military exercise would be held in accordance with the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and in order to display the combat power of the ground forces in safeguarding the borders. General Baqa'i said the Air Force planes will also take part in the maneuvers to support the army units.

Meanwhile, an exhibition of military equipment of the ground forces has been set up on the operational site of the two-day grand military exercise. The modern equipment of the ground forces as well as other parts repaired by the self-sufficiency jihad of the army have been put on display.

The newly built Zolfaqar tanks, the personnel-carrier of Kobra and the military vehicles of Babr-400 are displayed at the exhibition. The spare parts of the military equipement manufactured by the self-suficiency jihad are also on display. The equipment represented are being employed in Velayat military exercise for the first time.

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## Iran: Army Begins Preparatory Stage of 'Velayat' Exercise

*LD2105132296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Preparatory exercises have begun by special units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [regular] ground force in advance of the large-scale Velayat [guardianship — reference to rule by a religious leader] exercise. Our correspondents report.

[Correspondent] Dear viewers, I am speaking to you from the site of preparatory military exercises by the brave men of the ground force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in advance of their participation in the large-scale Velayat exercise. This exercise, which will be one of the biggest exercises carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran's ground force, will be an outstanding example from the point of view of coordination between infantry, armored, and logistic forces, and unprecedented from the point of view of simultaneous firing by tanks, artillery units and helicopters. [passage omitted.]

[Second correspondent] Dear viewers, we are in the operational area of the Velayat exercise. This exercise will be carried out in the near future by the ground force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army in the Kushk-Nosrat area of Qom. We would like to ask Brigadier General Dadbin, commander of the ground force, to speak to us about the aims and special features of the Velayat exercise.

[Dadbin] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We thank Exalted God that the eminent leader [Khamene'i] was kind enough to provide this opportunity for the ground force and other units of our army to take part in a large-scale exercise in the general area of Kushk-Nosrat. The main aims of this exercise are to increase the combat readiness of the forces from the point of view of mobility, fire and communications, strengthening personnel, assessing the headquarters of units and commanders throughout the exercise, and transferring eight years of experience gained during the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] to the faithful and young personnel of the ground force who were not present on the war fronts. Also, the cooperation of various (?groups), such as infantry, armored, artillery and the Havaniruz [air units of the ground force] together in one single and extensive operation. And, finally, putting groups into action in the shortest space of time. Bearing in mind that we have brought these forces to this region from different parts of our Islamic homeland, mobility and speed of action are important to us. With God's assistance, we have achieved total success during this stage. I should also say that, by undertaking this exercise, we will be in a good position to carry out any type of mission in any place at the command of the eminent commander in chief [Khamene'i], God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

### Iran: Tajik Envoy Summoned To Explain Shooting of Diplomat

*LD2105152296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a gun attack on a vehicle belonging to the Iranian Embassy in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, which injured an embassy staffer and his small child, the charge d'affaires of the Tajik Embassy was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today.

The head of the [Foreign Ministry's] second department in charge of the Caucasus and CIS affairs, demanded at this meeting an investigation leading to the arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack.

In reply, the Tajik charge d'affaires expressed regret for the incident. He said that the incident was not premeditated, and promised that his country will investigate the matter.

### Iran: UN Envoy Discusses Tajik Crisis With Va'ezi

*LD1805180196 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Special envoy of the United Nations for inter-Tajik political negotiation, Gerd Dietrich Merrem, held talks here on Saturday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi on Iran's peace efforts in Tajikistan.

Merrem said the Iranian role to help settle crises in the region, especially in Tajikistan, is significant.

Va'ezi outlined Iranian efforts to restore a just peace in the Tajikistan and voiced readiness to go ahead with the mediation in the inter-Tajik dialogue.

He said the Tajik crisis has no military solution and the negotiating table is the only way to bring peace and security to the republic.

Merrem said that he was visiting Tehran to work for extension of the ceasefire in Tajikistan as part of the inter-Tajik peace talks.

### Iran: Uzbek's Karimov Warned Over Threats To Withdraw From ECON

*LD1705214096 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 May 96 p2*

[Editorial: "Uzbekistan: Think Before You Act"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a time when all regional countries and almost all Asian states were rejoicing over the inauguration of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad, in a speech at the ECO summit in Ashgabat, President Islam Karimov threatened to withdraw Uzbekistan's membership from the organization.

The Uzbek president said, "Uzbekistan will withdraw from the Economic Cooperation Organization if some member states continue accusing nations which are not present".

There is no doubt that ECO is an economic organization, but member states are also political entities. They have their individual political leanings, but at the same time have accepted cooperating on as many areas as possible.

The question is not whether Uzbekistan is serious in its treat to withdraw its membership. The question is, why should a regional country shed crocodile tears for extra-regional countries who have been exploiting the regional countries foe at least the past half- century?

Political will is a prerequisite for any collective economic cooperation. ECO is an appropriate platform for sorting out differences in order to lay down the foundation of a dynamic regional cooperation.

Earlier, too, Uzbekistan had taken hasty stands which it had to revise when it realized that playing into the hands of the U.S. was not necessarily in its interest. Tashkent will lose more than what it might gain from withdrawing from ECO. It will be the people of Uzbekistan who will suffer from Tashkent's withdrawal. Uzbekistan should think twice before it acts-and even before it speaks. Rather than threaten to withdraw from the organization, Tashkent should try to adjust its policies with those of other member states with the aim of cooperation with regional countries and reducing the influence of far away countries.

### Iran: Paper Says Afghan Parties Should Follow Hekmatyar's Example

*LD1705210996 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 May 96 p 2*

[Editorial: "All Afghan Parties Should Follow Hekmatyar's Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the Afghan Mujahedeen groups ousted the Soviet forces form their motherland four years ago, they have been fighting among themselves causing traumatic bloodshed and terrible devastation of their country.

Unity, though an alien concept to the warring Afghan factions, is not all together as illusive as it prima facie seems to be. According to Afghan Defence Ministry sources as well as top Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] officials, Golboddin Hekmatyar's party has joined the government forces.

Although it is not yet clear whether Hekmatyar's alliance with the central government is tantamount to an alliance between the government and the Supreme Coordination Council (SCC), the event should be considered as a prelude to a more comprehensive alliance between the government and the opposition.

In fact the SCC was formed by Hekmatyar and heads of three other Afghan parties to wage a war against the Rabbani's government about two years ago. 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, an influential SCC member, is well aware of the role that his forces can play in northern Afghanistan. He probably realizes too that without the SCC-which is going to split apart the defection of Hekmatyar-his forces are not going to bring about a major change in Afghanistan's politico- military landscape. But, undoubtedly, if he and other member of the SCC join hands with Rabbani, they can herald a new era in the war- ravaged country.

Afghanistan has left behind a tragic experience of bloodshed, fratricide and homelessness. What Afghanistan needs today is amity and peace. This can materialise only if all Afghan factions join hands to put an end to bloodshed and fratricide. Only then they can march ahead to build a prosperous Afghanistan. Bloodshed should be stopped in Afghanistan. Enough is Enough.

### Iran: Tehran Radio on Qana Massacre 'War Crime'

*NC1805073196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
*0345 GMT 18 May 96*

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] concluded its session with a statement yesterday, read in Qana in the vicinity of the collective resting place of the victims of the Zionist regime. Qana is the site of the bestial Zionist attack in southern Lebanon on 19 April, in which more than 100 Lebanese women and children, who had taken shelter in the UN base, were killed.

In the APU's concluding statement, while condemning the Zionist regime's atrocities, the actions of this regime are identified as international terrorism and the trial of the perpetrators of such crimes is demanded. Earlier, some officials of Arab countries had described the Zionist regime's attack on the UN base as a war crime and called for the trial of those responsible as war criminals.

While the United States and the Zionist regime are seeking to commit to oblivion the atrocities of the Zionist regime in Lebanon, especially in Qana, in order to decrease its negative impacts on the compromise process, the actions taking place on the regional level and in international organizations are a source of increasing disgrace for Tel Aviv and will culminate in isolation of the Zionist regime.

Last week the report by the military adviser to the UN secretary general on the deliberate bombing of Qana generated a wave of hatred and loathing against the Zionist regime's actions. Washington and Tel Aviv are apprehensive that the atmosphere of heightened suspicion and mistrust of the Zionist regime will result in reluctance to the compromise process and create bottlenecks in the path of the process.

Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of Lebanon, addressed the APU members in Qana and deemed the Zionist regime the greatest enemy of Arab countries and expressed doubts on the peace-seeking claims of that regime, in view of its atrocities. He gave assurances that the hatred of the Arab people would continue, even in future generations and said: When our future generations view the collective graves of the victims of Israel's atrocities, they will see no reason for friendship with these murderers.

According to political experts, the United States has made immense efforts to project the Zionist regime as supporters of peace and compromise, but it now appears that with Israel's crimes those efforts have been futile. This has enhanced mistrust against the Zionist regime and undermined U.S. credibility among Arab countries.

### Iran: Paper Questions U.S. Motives Regarding Afghanistan

*LD1805165196 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian*
*14 May 96 p 2*

[Editorial: "U.S. Footsteps in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Four years after the [Afghan] mojahedin defeated the regime of Najibollah, internal war is continuing in Afghanistan without a clear horizon in sight. [passage omitted]

Following the Dayton peace accord and the restart of the train of the so-called Middle East peace process, the eyes of America have turned towards Afghanistan. It is not the misery of the Afghans which has drawn America's attention to the region, but the region's developments.

From the point of view of the White House, Iran has won one of the gateways to Central Asia and the other gateway has been made insecure by the Afghans. If such a trend continues, Iran would inevitably become the only route to Central Asia. Turkey and Pakistan are apprehensive about such a scenario, but how can one convince this armed nation to accept peace and share power?

The gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan which runs through Afghanistan has tempted America to come up with a new plan which does not require any dialogue between the Afghan groups.

During her visits to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ms. [Robin] Raphel has repeatedly said that the U.S. plan can be implemented separately by any group within its own sphere of influence and the appropriate rights can be claimed by each group. Afghanistan cannot become a federal territory, but it can enjoy a federal economy or be divided into smaller territories with differing markets.

Through the implementation of this plan, America intends to draw Afghan citizens into a kind of political engagement and, thereby, overshadow the legitimacy of some of the groups in order to select the most powerful among them and set up a political coalition.

In that case America will be able to prepare a peace-keeping force in Afghanistan when necessary; whereas there are no grounds for carrying out such an objective at the moment.

In any case, because of the attractive market of Central Asia and Iran's efforts to find a powerful place in that region, Afghanistan is quietly turning into a serious priority in the American foreign policy. The nature of this priority will become clear only if the Syrians clarify their position in respect of the peace process.

This move, in a region which Israel is eyeing — and it Israel has advanced as far as Turkey — and while Iraq's future is uncertain, should be construed as a kind of siege along the borders of the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. footsteps in Afghanistan should be identified and should not simply be dismissed.

## Iran: Paper Rejects Dialogue With U.S.

*LD1805202296 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 May 96 pp 1, 15*

[Editorial: "Rejection of Hegemony, the Secret of Our Existence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "The country's economic survival and progress depends on the Islamic Republic of Iran not having any kind of talks, discussion or dialogue with the United States." Making this statement at a gathering of officials from the Plan and Budget Organization, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, noted that "the current position and attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the United States will not undergo any change and the Plan and Budget Organization must bear this important principle in mind." His eminence added: No foreign political pressure and no social need must bring about disregard for Islamic ideals and the fundamental principle in the Islamic Republic of Iran is the realization of Islamic ideals.

While rejecting suggestions of any kind of conflict between development and Islamic and revolutionary values, the leader of the revolution explained that safeguarding values is a fundamental principle for our nation and this is exactly the purpose behind our presence on the country's stage. He underlined that, in drawing up its programs, the Plan and Budget Organization must combat the spirit of copying the views of the West, because Western development cannot be separated from the culture and aims of colonialism.

With this clear advice from the leader, the principles, criteria for programming and performance of the system of the Islamic Republic have been listed once again, using the most explicit statements. This can, in fact, be seen as the strategy of the Islamic Republic in terms of aims and programs, as stressed by the leader of the revolution at the gathering of the country's planners.

It should not be forgotten that, in recent years, some naive or frightened individuals have presented prescriptions for the improvement of ties between Iran and the United States. Some people even had timetables in their pocket, going as far as the year 2000, regarding the improvement of ties and, by engaging in exchanges of letters and making naive suggestions, were trying to create the impression in people's minds that any kind of growth and development in the country depends on the improvement of ties with the United States, and that we would only be able to climb the ladder of development by this means.

Now, 17 years after the breaking off of ties between the United States and Iran and, especially, with the clarification of the trend of growth and development in the country in the framework of the independence of choice and the steady steps of the country's committed and knowledgeable forces, it is easier to see the farsightedness of the vision of our revolutionary forces, which forms the basis of the system's actions. Let us not forget that, in recent years, the United States has consistently taken the direction of escalating its hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran and, with an all-encompassing embargo against Iran, has tried to persuade other countries blindly to follow Washington's vengeful policies against Iran.

Of course, this inhuman policy of the United States has been unsuccessful and the United States has become totally isolated and abandoned in its efforts to widen the scope of economic sanctions against Iran. Nevertheless, we have seen for ourselves how these same pressures have strengthened our national resolve and brought about conditions in which domestic forces have greater reliance in their own scientific and operational capabilities. The implementation of vast and fundamental projects throughout the country have strengthened this self-confidence of the nation and of knowledgeable forces, and have caused even the closest allies of the United States to become certain that sanctions against Iran are useless.

The leader's renewed emphasis on rejecting any kind of talks with the United States in such circumstances is laden with subtle meanings which must not be easily overlooked. The 17 years of experience gained in the course of the revolution showed that, while it has adopted a vengeful policy against the Islamic revolution, the United States suddenly changes its stance if it senses that it is isolated and its policies have failed, and that it decides to seek an improvement in the relations between the two countries by adopting a supposedly conciliatory policy. Nonetheless, a little later, when officials in Washington understand that "the Iranian nation knows what they are up to" and everyone knows what the reality is, their conciliatory manner immediately changes to hostile and vengeful behavior.

The Iranian nation has not forgotten that U.S. officials even wished to "destroy the Iranian nation at the root" and that they spoke of these naive hopes as "Washington's diplomacy." Even now, when officials in Washington become angry and upset about Islamic Iran's endurance, stability and strength, like an inept classroom monitor, they write Iran's name in their list of terrorists and of the naughty children in the class, and they keep putting black marks against its name. Of course, this is a bankrupt political-propaganda game which raises laughter even in the United States and, here too, no one pays any attention to this bellowing of the United States. Nevertheless, it seems that officials in Washington are incapable of anything else and have to keep trying their luck again with this same game. It is, naturally, not unlikely that, sensing defeat in the game, Washington's officials may resort, once again, to trying to improve relations.

The leader's firm rejection of talks with the United States as the strategy of the system is, in fact, an answer in advance to any possible suggestion from Washington to this effect. In this case, too, the small number of naive and frightened people can be assured that nothing has changed or will change here in relation to the United States and that our stance today is to continue emphasizing our unchanging position towards the United States. The accelerated trend of development in our country today is one of the blessings resulting from this farsighted idea.

### Iran: Paper Comments on Iraq's Oil Deal With UN

*LD2205085196 Tehran IRNA in English*
*0634 GMT 22 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA — An English- language paper commented Wednesday on the memorandum of understanding signed by the U.N. and the Iraqi regime allowing Baghdad to export 700,000 barrels of oil per day for six months, saying that some provisions of the agreement raises a number of considerations.

The sanctions severely affected the Iraqi people, and not the Saddam regime as intended, hence, in using the proceeds from the oil sales, priority should be given to the dire needs of the Iraqi masses, emphasized 'IRAN NEWS'.

However, it noted that 30 percent of the Iraqi oil income has been allocated as war compensation to Kuwait, an amount which it said was "too small for oil-rich Kuwait".

Elaborating on the issue of war reparations, it asked if Saddam attacked only Kuwait in the last two decades, underlining that, "if war reparations are to be paid by the Iraqi regime, then Iran should be the first to receive it," as the Islamic republic has been publicly confirmed as the aggrieved party in the 1980-88 war.

On the provision for payment of 150 million dollars every six months to the Kurdish community in northern Iraq, the editorial, while acknowledging that serious crimes were indeed committed by Baghdad against its own Kurdish community, nevertheless wondered how this payment would affect Iraqi national sovereignty.

The article also pondered the price disturbances that could arise with the Iraqi re-entry in the international oil market, saying that Saudi Arabia should revert to its pre-1991 production ceiling of 5.5 million barrels a day and that other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should strictly adhere to their agreed OPEC quotas.

## Iran: Paper Cautions Ansar-e Hizballah Group

*LD1905163096 Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian 15 May 96 p 1*

[Unattributed article: "Who Benefits From Tension?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one can deny that among the faithful and hezbollahi forces, who have been to the war front, are war- disabled, are volunteers, and believe in the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult, there are quite a number who, although essentially sympathizing with the concerns, sensibilities and aspirations of the "Ansar-e Hezbollah" group, do not accept their methods and believe the effects and consequences of such methods to be detrimental to the revolution and the system.

The events at the Amir Kabir University this week [in Tehran on 12 May, during which Dr. 'Abdolkarim Sorush was prevented from delivering a speech] speak of the spread of aggressive methods and their extension into the arenas of thought. The threats and intimidations, as well as the declarations of willingness to confront, which have been raised in the form of statements and declarations, point to a critical and tense atmosphere which must be taken as the most clear clinical symptom of an acute social malady and efforts must be made to remedy it. A detailed explanation of the agents of that malady will be assigned to a later date and here only a few points will be looked at.

1. One of the particularities of the Islamic revolution, which sets it apart from contemporary revolutions, is the recognition by its instigator and other senior exponents of the multiplicity and variety of ideological and political currents. The differences of perspective and the diversity of understanding of the officials and the Muslim forces committed to the ruling system and the revolution throughout the existence of the Islamic Republic are clear testimony to that claim. Therefore, efforts made by a group to eliminate opposing thoughts and their resorting to the weapons of force and accusation of heresy and corruption against opponents, besides revealing the weakness and paucity of the bases of their thinking, contradict the most basic of revolutionary values. Obviously "Ansar-e Hezbollah", as an organization with its own sensibilities and particular leanings, is free to publicize its beliefs but is not allowed to resort to force when dealing with opposing ideas and points of view. Such a logic is even inappropriate and disallowed in dealing with groups with opposing ideology which seek political activity within the law, let alone when dealing with Muslim and revolutionary groups and associations.

2. The name "Ansar-e Hezbollah" must not delude this organization and make it imagine that it represents all the basijis, hezbollahis and the supporters of the ruling system. Many of the hezbollahis — with a full record of struggle against the idol [taghut, pejorative term referring to the shah], constant selflessness and self-sacrifice in the holy defense fronts as well as a great store of love for and service to the revolution and the ruling system — are not only in disagreement with the policy and performance of this group, but also believe those to detract from the worth and honor of the basijis and hezbollahis. Naturally the continuation of those acts — and that in the name of hezbollah — will force this group to openly disassociate themselves from such acts and their adverse consequences.

3. Students' Islamic associations are a continuation of those sound and proper currents which kept the Islamic movement alive in universities through their unflagging struggle and, after the revolution, saved the revolution on many occasions through being present in the country's political arena and by tremendous acts such as the occupation of the den of spies and the cultural revolution. They also gave the hezbollah name its prestige and credibility by going to the fronts. The hostile and unprincipled confrontation against Islamic societies brings nothing but the weakening of the Islamic and hezbollahi current in the universities. The "Ansar-e Hezbollah" is actually acting to undermine revolutionary values when it carries out such acts, ostensibly in the name of and probably with the motive of preserving those values.

4. Unfortunately despicable acts, such as attacking a cinema which resulted in injury to women and children, or preventing the convening of academic seminars and conferences — such as the Jamal al-Din Asadabadi Seminar at Tabataba'i University and aggressive and hostile confrontation with lecturers and students who uphold the Islamic current in universities — have severely marred the credibility of hezbollah in the public opinion. Have the brethren in "Ansar-e Hezbollah" ever thought to themselves what damage they inflict against the public trust and belief in the revolution and the ruling system by such acts, and what a wrong concept they portray of the hezbollah? The least damage resulting from those acts is that the credibility and

respect towards the name of basij and hezbollah — which were gained at the price of the blood of the purest of faithful beings in the field of combat against the anti-revolutionary and the aggressive enemy — will be lost in public opinion.

5. We commend the brethren in "Ansar-e Hezbollah" to act to elevate their thoughts instead of sending expeditionary forces, strengthening their numbers and going to universities and threatening and intimidating other Islamic and revolutionary groups. Thus they will enable themselves to respond to ideas with ideas. Let them know that the commitment and belief as well as the record of service and love of those groups to the revolution is not less than theirs. If bullying and force were to overpower them, then they would have left the arena years before the revolution.

6. We have always insisted that the body of hezbollah has a character independent of the faction supporting traditional capitalism and the bazaar. As a result of adopting such a stance we have been the subject of criticism by many friends. While reconfirming that belief, we sincerely and sympathetically commend our hezbollahi brethren not to become the tools in the hands of that faction and not to allow advocates of monopoly of power to make a bridge of them on their way to power; just as unfortunately happened in the second round of elections.

7. We also humbly tell our brethren in the Islamic societies in universities that the present conditions are extremely sensitive and brittle. Aggression and confrontation benefits no one and will result in undermining the ruling system before anything else.

The bazaar faction, despite all the offenses and the influence that it brought to bear, is not satisfied with the election results at all. It does not believe a tranquil and sound atmosphere of political competition to be to its benefit and is trying to depict the social atmosphere as critical by using all its might for creating tension and false confrontations. It does this in order to have proper grounds to justify limiting freedoms and stopping political activities under the pretext of the lack of minimum capability. Muslim revolutionary students must vigilantly avoid emotional and reactive confrontations and falling into such traps. They must realize that under the present circumstances, political freedoms and the holding of contrasting views will be the first victims of aggression and confrontation.

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## Iran: Foreign Ministry Official on Iran's Role as Link in Asia

*NC2205082596 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 May 96 p 12*

[Part one of an article by Mohammad Taheri, adviser to the foreign minister, entitled: "Iran: Strategic Bridge Between East and West"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the newly-independent republics have been the center of international attention from various angles. Due to their immense economic potential and namely their great oil and gas resources, vast and fertile fields, and rich mineral resources— these countries—and especially the Central Asian countries—have been the focus of attention by international and capitalist companies from the east and the west, so much so that during the past couple of years we have witnessed astronomical investments in these countries by the world's big companies.

Along with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the establishment of the new republics, favorable opportunities emerged. Among these opportunities, we can list two international phenomena. The first is that the Islamic Republic of Iran became the center for international economic and political contacts in Central Asia and the Caucasus. And this was because of Iran's geographic situation on the one hand, and the country's practical foreign policy on the other. All the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus, with the exception of Georgia, are landlocked countries and their only economic contact with the world is either directly or indirectly through Iran.

The other countries that are interested in expanding their economic relations with the republics in Central Asia and the Caucasus have no other alternative but to use the roads or the airspace of the five countries of Iran, China, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Russia. And the interesting point is that of these five countries, Iran enjoys a special place as far as communication is concerned. China shares borders only with part of Central Asia— Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Meanwhile, it should be noted that the roads connecting Central Asia to China are relatively long. Afghanistan is involved in civil wars and—more important yet—it is a landlocked country itself. Turkey shares borders only with Armenia. Moreover it, too, needs the routes through Iran for its economic contacts.

Only Russia and Iran share borders with both Central Asia and the Caucasus. But Russia has historically faced the problem of a lack of access to free waters. Therefore, Iran is the only one left that is linked by land and by sea with Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Russia. And this possibility for communication can be examined on an international basis.

The second phenomenon that is interesting on an international level is the issue of merging into the international economic system. This cannot be possible without the use of Iran's routes. The countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus cannot merge into the international economic system without Iran because, in addition to being these countries' neighbor, Iran has many common religious, cultural, and historical bonds and longlasting ties with them. Even the 70 years of Marxist rule in the former Soviet Union were unable to destroy these bonds. When these countries gained their independence, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed this immense development and started extensive cooperation with them. It has persistently worked toward the consolidation of political, commercial, economic, cultural, touristic, oil, and maritime cooperation with them. Within this context and in order to express as much solidarity with these countries as possible, while accepting them as the new members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iran has proposed the formation of an organization for economic cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states comprising Russia, Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. This proposal has been accepted in principle by the interested countries and steps are being taken for its completion. [passage omitted]

In view of all the above, Iran has always enjoyed a strategic position as a link among the three continents of Asia, America, and Europe. With the opening up of this new route and the revival of the Silk Road, this significance has increased and it has regained the historic and strategic situation that it lost in the 19th century because of military offensives and the imposition of unequal agreements by Czarist Russia and with the pressures by the Soviet Union in the 20th century.

Today, by using the possibilities for new world links and the existence of historic and cultural bonds, Iran has once again found the opportunity to expand its friendly ties and its economic, scientific, technical, and spiritual cooperation with a large number of countries in Asia and the Far East through land routes (from Central Asia to China) and sea routes (from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific). This speaks of an encouraging and happy future for the region's people and it heralds economic development and the expansion of friendship and fraternity among the region's countries. [passage omitted]

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## Iran: Envoy Believes Historic Ties to India Set To Flourish

*LD1805120296 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 18, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to India, 'Ali Reza Sheykh 'Attar, has said that historic ties between India and Iran are deep-rooted enough that the change in government cannot affect them.

Sheykh 'Attar today told IRNA: No matter whichever party rules here, Iran stands for strengthening of its relations with India. The relationship between Iran and India is far beyond being only bilateral in nature. Instead, it is based on expanding regional cooperation, added Skeykh 'Attar.

Sheykh 'Attar also said that a stable and independent India is essential to the peace, stability and security in the region as well as Asia. He hoped that the issue of government formation in India will be settled as per the wish of the people of the country.

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## Iran: Tehran-Damascus Joint Economic Commission Meets

*LD1805153696 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — The first meeting of Tehran-Damascus Joint Economic Commission was held in Tehran on Saturday.

Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi, currently here at the head of a Syrian delegation, called for expansion of relations between the two countries in commercial, economic and technical areas.

He voiced his country's willingness to cooperate with Iran in transportation, energy and industry.

Iranindi [not further identified] who is the head of the Iranian delegation to the commission said that the setting up of a shipping line between the two countries required a separate agreement.

Akhundi [not further identified] voiced Iran's readiness to hold exclusive trade exhibitions in Syria.

He said that regulations should be set between the two countries to cancel double taxes and pave the way for joint ventures.

Akhundi also voiced Iran's readiness to provide Syria with various types of pipes for transfer of gas, oil and sewage.

He said Iran is willing to cooperate with Syria in such fields as agriculture, animal breeding, fish culture, silo building, cement plants and medical education.

A letter of understanding is expected to be signed at the end of the meeting after conducting further expert studies.

### Iran: SAIRI Chairman Meets Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker

*LD2005172396 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, 20 May (KUNA) — Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, who is currently visiting Iran, today met Baqir al-Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI].

Hakim told KUNA after the meeting that he and Sa'dun had discussed a number of important issues, particularly the latest developments inside Iraq. He said that they had also discussed "the situation that the children of the Iraqi people are enduring and the ordeal they are facing as a result of the presence of Saddam Husayn's regime in power, and that poses a real threat to the region and the Iraqi people."

He added that he had exchanged with National Assembly speaker "their viewpoints on the means of action and the need to reach a unified regional stance in order to save the Iraqi people and rescue them from Saddam Husayn's regime." [passage omitted]

As regards the aid given by the State of Kuwait to the Iraqi refugees, Hakim said that this aid "left a huge and wide impact on the children of the Iraqi people, be they those who have received it, such as the children of the camps in Iran, or those whom it has not reached yet, because they both consider this aid as generous and highly significant."

The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying the National Assembly speaker. [passage omitted]

### Iran: Tehran, Russia Sign Fisheries Agreement

*LD1805205896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia have signed a memorandum of understanding on the expansion of cooperation in the field of fisheries. According to the Central News Unit, on the basis of this memorandum of understanding, which was signed by Messrs Gholam Reza Foruzesh, the minister of construction jihad, and Mr. Vladimir Korelskiy, the Russian fisheries minister, the two sides reached agreement regarding conservation and breeding, improved use of the marine life in the Caspian Sea, and the prevention of trade in caviar-yielding fish in violation of regulations.

In the memorandum of understanding, the two sides also stressed the promotion of fish breeding in inland and sea waters, the establishment of fishing organizations, the use of new technology for the exchange of information between the two countries' scientists and fisheries experts, and the coordination of fishing regulations.

### Iran: Velayati Meets With Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister

*LD1905133396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy prime minister of Yemen ['Abd- al-Wahhab al-Anisi] and Iran's foreign minister ['Ali Akbar Velayati] today discussed bilateral and regional relations.

At the meeting, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi spoke about the greatness of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tezhend railway and hoped the opening of the railway would help the further expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

At the meeting, also attended by Yemen's minister of transport, Mr. Anisi expressed satisfaction with the advance of relations between the two countries and said there were many areas for the expansion of political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries and that there were factors of trust to plan the expansion of relations.

Mr. Velayati referred to the frequent visits by the officials of the two countries and stressed the need to continue these visits and to discuss coordination for the expansion of relations.

Our country's foreign minister thanked the Yemeni government for attending the inaugural ceremonies for the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tezhend railway and said the opening of the line was a practical step towards the expansion of trade relations with the regional countries and others.

### Iran: Expansion of Trade Relations Discussed With Australia

*LD1905134896 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Head of Iran- Australia Joint Chamber of Commerce said in Sidney on Sunday that Iranian businessmen and entrepreneurs are willing to expand trade relations with their Australian counterparts.

Habibollah Asgar Owladi, addressing a session of the chamber, stressed the strategic role of Iran in the transit of commodities.

Referring to the facilities available at Iranian free trade zones, he proposed joint investment in those areas and also establishment of joint companies in both countries in order to get acces to regional markets.

Meanwhile, at the same session, an official of the Australian Chamber of Commerce called for further promotion of bilateral economic ties.

Another Iranian member of the joint chamber, Zahiri, pointed to the volume of bilateral transactions for 1995 and referred to the outstanding trade potentials of Central Asian countries and Iran's facilities for transiting goods to those countries.

### Iran: Majles Approves Free Trade Zones Bill

*LD1905160796 Tehran IRNA in English*
*1409 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — The Majles in its Sunday's session approved the amendaments made to the bill on the administration of free trade and industrial zones by the Council of Guardians.

According to the amendments, the cabinet ministers should introduce regulations on foreign exchange parity rates and procedure for the enforcement of state punishment concerning contraband goods and smuggled hard currencies at free trade zones.

Setting up of the Iranian bank with at least 51 percent of government shares, opening of the foreign bank branch and founding credit institutes, either Iranian or foreign, and their branches at free trade zones should be proposed by the Central Bank of Iran and approved by the cabinet ministers, the amendments further noted.

According to the approval, branches of foreign banks based on free trade areas and those Iranian banks having obtained permission from the central bank for overseas activities, are entitled to deal with banking activities within the framework of the Islamic banking criteria.

The Majles also passed the amendments proposed by the Council of Guardians to the bill on setting up a state company for the maintenance and repair of commercial and non-military planes.

### Iran: Nateq-Nuri—Fifth Majles To Officially Open 1 Jun

*LD2105145996 Tehran IRNA in English*
*1437 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri announced on Tuesday that the Fifth Majles would be legally formed on May 25 but will be officially opened on June 1. He noted that from May 25 to June 1 the Majles would have no open session except for extraordinary cases.

He explained that the coincidance of May 25 with the anniversary of Ashura, the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (a.s.), the third imam of the infallible household of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), is the reason for the postponement of the opening date. The Fourth Majles will end on May 26.

### Iran: President Praises Universities, Urges Respect for Law

*LD2005121696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
*0930 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said that the evolutionary advance of humanity in the fields of science and culture is never ending and that one of the main aims of the Islamic country and system [of Iran] is to take tremendous and fast steps in that direction.

Addressing the heads of the centers for research and higher education, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is also the head of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, spoke about the precious status of science, expertise, obligation, and religious belief in society.

He said scientific knowledge and religious beliefs were both valuable in their own right, but the combination of the two factors were more important and, therefore, responsible scientists and men of wisdom were the most valuable human resources.

The president said that the system of the Islamic Republic had made valuable efforts in expanding sciences and research projects while encouraging humanistic values; that the training of learned people who were devoted to religious values had been one of the main ideals of the system and one of the hopes of the late Imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the eminent leader of the revolution [Ayatollah Khamene'i]; that much progress has been achieved in this respect; that there was some way to go before the final and particular goal of the Islamic system was achieved; and that we had to try harder to realize this.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the achievements that had been accomplished in the evolutionary advance of society and the progress of the country through the expansion of universities and centers of higher education; and expressed satisfaction regarding the issue.

He said at present it was totally practical for Iranian experts to participate in scientific, research, and applied projects abroad and that we had evidence of such efforts in certain countries and certain important and complex projects.

The head of the Council of Cultural Revolution added: Our universities must work toward independence from foreign countries, but should at the same time maintain and strengthen their contacts with scientific and research centers across the world in order to gain access to the latest achievements.

The president said that discipline, spirituality, high scientific standards, and distinguished training were among the remarkable characteristics of our universities in comparison with other developing countries.

He said that discipline and respect for regulations and law in society, including universities, befitted the Islamic and revolutionary country, were one of the distinctions of our system, and should be taken more seriously and implemented firmly.

The president said the fact that 1.3 million university students were being educated and that the number of courses in centers of higher education had increased were great achievements.

He referred to a report on the country's educational centers and said the issue of research in the country had reached acceptable levels, continued to expand, and could enjoy a bright future.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that the [government] policy would continue to strengthen and expand universities, encourage applied research, and improve the quality of training.

He hoped that our universities would play a more effective role in social evolution and meeting the requirements set by the eminent leader of the revolution.

Today's meeting was held to mark the 26th gathering of the heads of centers for research and higher education. [passage omitted]

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## Iran: 'Un-Islamic' Elements To Be Purged From Universities

*LD1905132796 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the guidelines given by the eminent leader in his address yesterday to the heads of universities, this morning, on the second day of a nationwide meeting of the heads of the country's universities, the participants discussed ways of toward the Islamicization of the universities.

According to the correspondent of the Central News Unit, Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli referred to the guidelines of the Guardian of the Cause of Muslims [Khamene'i], saying: One of the important components of this process of Islamicization of the universities is confronting the incorrect notion of the separation of religion from politics.

Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli also advised: More care should be taken in the selection of lecturers and students, and while the universities are being purged of un-Islamic elements, plans should be made to promote genuine Islamic culture among the students.

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## Iran: Sorush Protest Reflects 'Hand of Discord'

*LD1805124396 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 May 96 p 1*

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "The Hand of Discord"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Efforts to create disruption at Amir Kabir University [on 12 May, when 'Abdolkarim Sorush was prevented from speaking] is reminiscent of the game played at the Technical College in October last year [when Sorush was prevented from speaking, apparently for having questioned the role of the vali-ye faqih]. [passage omitted]

The so-called open letter written by Dr. Sorush and addressed to the president, which was published in yesterday's SALAM, should be seen as the beginning of an old ploy aimed at damaging the values of the system and echoing the voice of foreign media.

The letter, which is similar to a political party statement, is in fact a letter of abuse against the system, the country's legal foundations, and its caring and Hezbollahi people.

In this open letter, Mr. Sorush has shown much literary skill in assembling all the insults of the sworn enemies of the system — from the monarchists to the hypocrites [Monafeqin — Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and those hostile toward the system. He has accused the system of suppressing and curtailing individual freedoms, and has not spared anyone from the sharp edge of his pen.

Let us see why things have come to this. When a so-called philosopher wants to play the role of a political leader, becomes the one who monopolizes speaking everywhere, hears nothing but chants of applause from his listeners and nothing but praise for himself, then the situation becomes the way it is, and you can see that for yourselves!

Those who have a healthy mind and do not see things from a hostile angle see nothing but the hand of discord, which serves the interests of the enemy, behind this incident.

### Iran: Sorush Letter to Rafsanjani on Harassment

*LD2105153096 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 18 May 96 p 3*

[Article: "Dr. 'Abdolkarim Sorush's Letter to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

With respect and to seek guidance and your instructions, I would like to bring to your attention the following points, which are exclusively within the realm of mankind's culture and human rights.

No doubt you are aware that for nearly a year now I have been the target of sensation, violence, and destructive intimidation by certain pressure groups and their affiliated press. In addition, the Intelligence Ministry, by resorting to threats, by setting limits, and by serving repeated summonses, pushed me into a corner, violated my rights as a human being, and gave a free hand to my enemies.

During this period I have had no alternative but to remain silent and patient. Nevertheless, the threats of violence against me have intensified to such a degree that I am no longer invited to give lectures. That is, all doors are closing in my face.

At the start of the current academic year, I was given only one subject to teach in Tehran University, which I have had to abandon on several occasions. I am supposed to teach philosophy and social science to the postgraduates in this university, in accordance with a contract signed with the Faculty of Social Science. However, every time I set off for the faculty I have to face serious threats to my life. Every time I have to pass through a picket line, comprising motorcyclists and pedestrians, who block my entry to the university by shouting obscenities (Everyone knows who these people are and where they have come from). They seem very determined to initiate violence and even bloodshed (one of the assailants threatened the deputy head of the faculty with bloodshed).

I have to arrive at the university much earlier than the time of my scheduled lecture and often in secret. On a number of occasions I have had to abandon lectures and leave my terrified students in the middle of the classroom. Sometimes, the lectures are cancelled as I am unable to enter the university.

The esteemed chancellor of the university and the head of the Social Science Faculty have tried hard to resolve the problem but they have failed, because the assailants enjoy the overt and covert support of various authorities (including the representative office of the vali-ye faqih [Ayatollah Khamene'i]). In fact the picket line is growing, in the number of rioters and in the strength of their equipment.

On one occasion, when I was giving a lecture, a threatening letter signed by Hizballah was handed to me. In the letter comments such as "we will do our utmost" to expel you [from university] and prevent you from giving lectures were mentioned. The same thing is happening again, the same saga of bloodshed and assassination. (I still have the letter.)

The new development is an invitation extended to me by the Islamic Society of Amir Kabir University to participate in a seminar marking the martyrdom anniversary of Professor Mottehari. The advertisement for this invitation had not yet been distributed when the Ministry of Intelligence began harassing and worrying my family by making repeated telephone calls. The ministry wants to prohibit and prevent me from participating in the seminar by using threats and intimidation. The ministry wants to take away this indisputable right from this servant easily and cheaply and without any reasons or discussion.

Instead of confronting the pressure groups and ensuring security for the lovers of knowledge, it is treading on the wrong path and orders the speaker to remain silent and break his promise [to speak at the seminar]; and ensure security for those who disturb security.

By then the troublemakers were already on the scene and had invaded the university grounds and were demonstrating. They were again talking about shedding blood (as said by the head of Amir Kabir University) in the grounds of the university on the day of the speech.

Mr. President. My question, which is in no way aimed at breaking the law or making trouble or creating mischief, to you, who has spoken many times about the sanctity and safety of those who live by the pen, is this: How long will the academics in this country be the victims of unethical behavior and law-breaking by irresponsible groups and remain silent, sit in a corner, and listen to abuse and insults; have their own and their families' safety and security taken away; and see that those who undermine security are free and those who deserve security are deprived of it? If the perpetrators of the ugly incident on 11 October 1995 at Tehran University's Faculty of Sciences had been punished instead of being highly thought of, would they still cause so much bother? Are you aware of the abominations committed by a group of infantrymen and cavalrymen every week at the Faculty of Social Sciences, watched by timid and worried students, without any hindrance or punishment from the security forces? Has the minister of education told you about those incidents? Are those abominable events worthy of an honorable scientific establishment? Are those cursed incidents, which do nothing but undermine the professional security and freedom of action of university folk and researchers and have no other connotation except open desecration of the university, a source of pride for this country's academics? Are you, as the chairman of the [Supreme] Cultural Revolution Council, aware of the situation? And will you do anything to eradicate it?

Mr. President. For eight months, in the interests of the country, I have, patiently and painfully, turned down any invitation to speak, have not made any speeches in public, and have ignored and not responded to the floods of accusations and insults from the Friday prayers podiums and newspapers, meaning, I have forgone my legitimate rights. Now I see that not only have I not gained anything but that I have gradually lost my professional and personal security as the brazen have become more impudent. And, in addition to receiving open and anonymous threatening letters, I am now being threatened by lawbreakers, whom the country's officials know by name but do not raise a finger to stop their blatant acts.

Mr. President. Thank God, I have never been angered by those insults. With a painful heart I have kept smiling; I have not been hurt by the sarcasm of the jealous; I have not thought of sowing discord; I have followed the straight and narrow; I have ignored the upstarts out of wisdom; and, with the strength of Abraham,I have regarded those mischiefs with optimism. But I ask you, has this country gone so far that a teacher takes his life into his own hands when attending class or an academic meeting? Does this country need the likes of Galileo, Giordano, and Bruno?

Mr. President: How can I tell my students that there is hope for the future? How can I lecture them on the importance of free research, on being courageous in their thinking, and on the existence of an open social climate for the growth of talents, when I see that even talking about any of these subjects is now a deadly sin, for which I am being punished by the pressure groups and the Philistine mob? How can I assure the students that in this realm the ship of the talented inventor is immune from the wrath of envious bigots? They can see that I have spent 30 years of my 50- year life, relentlessly and sincerely in the service of science, research, theology, reading, writing, translating, and lecturing, and yet I am being punished and tortured mentally and physically for trying to untie some complex philosophy issues. Above all, how can we bear witness to the fact that all these acts of bigotry, treachery, inquisition, and the imposition of ideas are carried out in the name of the most beloved religion, its shari'ah and velayat?

Mr. President. The agitators and inciters have extended their hostility toward thinkers to hostility toward the country. In their drive to assault people's personalities and indulge in character assassinations, they do not themselves realize that they are really assaulting the culture, tradition, excellence, and meek history of this homeland.

Because of their prejudice and bigotry, they are impairing and disfiguring the lofty name and glorious image of this country in the eyes of outsiders and of future generations. And their actions are leading to the promotion of evil and ugly practices which are quite out of line with the virtues of the ancient culture and the laudable, fine religious traditions of this country.

I have now come to you to seek justice, not only for myself but also because of the injustices against the reputation and excellence of this powerful culture and the betrayal of people's cultural awareness; because of the unholy efforts to distort the truth and give blessings to aggression and because of the crooked foundation on which scientific-human relations are being built and the humiliation and insults directed against learning and the university. I am complaining to you and I urge you not to be indifferent to this cultural decay and relying on your legal authority and religious and cultural responsibilities, like a skilled surgeon, I expect you to try and remove this rot and cure it.

You should be assured that all those people in this country who love culture and good deeds and all those who fight violence and seek justice, will sympathise with you, walk with you, and appreciate your good efforts in theory and in practice.

Mr. President, I am now mourning a university in which a group is celebrating the death of science and the birth of barbarism. I am worried about the splendor and honor which is now being shamelessly destroyed. I am anxious about the sorrow-stricken hearts of students and university lecturers, who hopelessly and submissively suffer and remain silent.

I think about thousands of buds of hope which flickered in the storm of troubles and are now being scattered on the autumn soil. My heart beats for those students whose rights and aspirations are being trampled on so easily and so cheaply. This is not only my tale, this is the tale of the country's culture and hope.

Mr. President, the victory of the dark forces is the defeat of our culture, the downfall of our hopes, and the decline of our thoughts.

Do not hand this precious gem to the devils. It is not lawful to remain silent. Do not allow them to become victorious.

What type of cloud has taken us over?

Its not only mine, its everyone's problem.

This.

Have a glance and see what you are losing.

This represents a thousand hopes of children of Adam.

Renewing my salutation.

[Signed] 'Abdolkarim Sorush

[Dated] 9 May 96

## Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses Seminar on Ending Poverty

*LD1805125196 Tehran IRNA in English*
*1233 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday that removal of poverty from Iran's Islamic society is a basic and fundamental movement in the country.

The president, making the remark at a seminar on poverty and removal of deprivation, underlined that the movement would be ceaselessly followed until total removal of deprivation from the society. He pointed to the effective steps taken in the post- revolution era for the elimination of deprivation and said that basic measures taken in this direction were gradually bearing fruits. However, the president added that the issue which had its roots in the past centuries, required horough studies and more time.

He said that despite plots of the arrogant world, through implementation of sound plannings, the number of rural population living below the poverty line shrinked to about 26 percent in the year 1373 (1994-1995) from over 48 percent in the pre-revolution time. Meanwhile, he added, the number of urban population living under the poverty line, has lowered to 12.2 percent from 47 percent before the revolution. The total number of iranian population living below the poverty line also declined from the pre-revolution 48 percent to about 17 percent in recent years, said the president.

He then outlined on the general budget of rls. 10,284 billion, constituting 32 percent of the current budget of the government, and on the improvement of the financial status of the vulnerable masses.

## Iran: Paper Refers to Khamene'i as 'Imam of Ummah'

*LD1705222196*

[FBIS Report] Tehran RESALAT in Persian on 13 May carries on pages 1 and 16 an unattributed editorial called "Congratulations to the Imam of the Ummah." In the editorial, RESALAT seems to refer to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as "imam of the ummah," a title which has so far been applied exclusively to the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

It congratulates and thanks the "self-sacrificing ummah", the "imam of the ummah", the president, and government for the completion of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway which represents another chapter in the "illustrious" history of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The editorial continues: "With thanks to the Almighty — glory be to Him — we congratulate the self-sacrificing ummah and the imam of the ummah of the time [emamat-e ommat dar zaman] and the legitimate deputy of the Lord of the Age — may God hasten his advent — on the reopening of the Silk Road. We hope that this opening will bring blessings to all the peoples of the region, notably to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In all fairness, the esteemed president and respected government, especially the relevant ministries, deserve special congratulations for this great project, and we ask God to grant all of them favorable and fitting rewards."

After discussing the importance of the railway, RESALAT says: "His eminence the imam of the ummah [hazrat-e emam-e ommat] and leader of the revolution should also be thanked for the proper completion of the fifth Majles elections." The editorial concludes with more praise and thanks for successful staging of the elections and congratulations to those who won seats.

## Iran: Paper Says Change Needed in Non-Oil Economy

*LD1705211696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 15 May 96 p2*

[Editorial: "A Radical Change Is Needed in Our Non-Oil Economy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oil, which still forms the basis of Iran's economy, is a dwindling commodity and all experts believe will run out soon.

It is true that certain, specific, economic development plans have been implemented and more are on the drawing board to gradually the economy's dependence on oil, but they are not enough.

Recently, the Agriculture Minister, Isa Kalantari, said that right now the agricultural sector provides one-fourth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Kalantari is optimistic that within a decade, the export of agricultural products will fetch an income equivalent to the present oil revenues.

But some experts have a different opinion. They agree that Iran has many potentials for an overall speedy economic development. But they also say that Iran's economic potentials need priority attention of the government in order to eliminate certain stumbling blocks in the way of their realization.

We have two major potentials for our national economic development — water, and land.

We are really fortunate that in a region where others are facing acute shortage of water resources, we can rightly boast that Iran has abundant reserves of this vital commodity which is essential for economic progress.

What we need is to prevent water from being wasted. Today, 70 percent of our available water goes to waste. As far as we know satisfactory plans for the construction of dams in various parts of the country are underway and it is expected that all the water- related problems will be resolved soon.

The real problem, however, lies with land, agricultural land. One of the major aspects of the land problem is the question of ownership. So many organizations and institutions are involved in granting of ownership of land that most of the time it becomes very difficult to use the land profitably and productively.

An acceptable and fair mechanism should be set up foe better use of public agricultural lands. As far as private land is concerned, the size of the land for private ownership is a drawback. According to the law, one can own only a 20 hectare piece of land which is to small for a modern agricultural system. We can overcome this problem though forming cooperative societies, a factor which can pave the way for agricultural activities on a large scale.

Another aspect which needs the immediate attention of the concerned officials and authorities is the method being used in the agriculture sector.

We should get rid of the traditional methods and adopt the most modern available techniques in the agriculture sector to achieve the best possible results.

## Iran: Strategic Importance of New Railroad Viewed

*NC1805070096 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 May 96 p 12*

[Commentary by Mohammad 'Ali Talebi-Khakiani: "The Importance of the Sarakhs-Tajan Railroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The international Sarakhs-Tajan railroad—one of the most important transportation projects on the national and supranational level—will be inaugurated on Monday [13 May] by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hashemi- Rafsanjani. The ceremonies will be attended by 40 presidents and high-level officials of regional and world countries.

This railroad will join the newly independent republics of Central Asia, the Caucasus, North Asia, South Asia, and East Asia with one another by way of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is of immense importance for Iran and all the countries of the region and the world.

This completion of this project is considered the final step for reviving the historic Silk Road in a new and advanced form. There is no doubt that the project will considerably influence the political, economic, and cultural relations of regional countries, as well as the political stability and security of the Central Asian republics.

Most of the economic experts on regional issues believe the operation of the Sarakhs-Tajan railroad will constitute the first, most economical, and most stable route for linking Central Asian republics to the outside world. This is especially since by using this route the Central Asian republics will be able to reduce their dependence on Russia. This will imbue dynamism in the connecting routes of these countries and will galvanize their commercial exchanges in the region.

In the past, the Central Asian countries carried out most of their trade exchanges and exports through the Soviet Union. This made the Central Asian republics completely dependent on the former Soviet Union's routes.

In addition, the Soviet Union's capabilities were also limited, as were the number of the commodities exported. In other words, the possibility of extensive exports through the former Soviet Union did not exist. Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union the newly independent republics, especially the Central Asian republics—all of which are landlocked, sought to diversify their import and export routes. This was because the connecting routes through Russia were not suitable for them. For example, Azerbaijan and Georgia could only reach Russian and Europe through Groznyy (the Chechen capital) and the (Novoriysisk) port. However, with the outbreak of hostilities between the autonomous Chechen government and Russia, the routes were blocked and Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as all the other republics linked to Russia through them, encountered problems.

It is worth mentioning that the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus have only a few routes that can provide them access to the outside world:

1. Russia: This is one to the routes for the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus and is currently considered to be the only actual link for these republics with the outside world. This has given rise to the perception prevailing among officials of these republics that Russia will use these routes as a pressure lever whenever it chooses. Hence, the use of Russia alone as a link to Europe will only cause problems for the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus.

2. Georgia, Turkey, and Europe: This route created numerous problems for the export of goods from the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus to the outside world due to ethnic conflicts in Georgia and instability in Turkey involving the government and the Kurds.

If the above problems are resolved, then there is a possibility that in the future his connecting route may become one of the main routes for linking the Central Asian countries with Europe.

3. Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Gulf of Oman: This path is also not very safe, due to the war raging in Afghanistan and the ethnic differences in Pakistan. In addition, this route has not been constructed and considerable time is needed for its completion.

4. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the PRC, East Asia, and the Pacific Ocean: This path is too lengthy and uneconomical and so it is not considered feasible.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran: In view of the current circumstances, this connecting route is the safest, most stable, and most economical route for the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus to the free waters. Islamic Iran now has direct land and sea routes to 20 regional countries and can play an important role as a connecting bridge.

This is while most of the Central Asian republics—in view of their common cultural, religious, and historical links with the Islamic Republic of Iran—are extremely eager to broaden cooperation. The Iranian officials also reiterated that they are fully prepared to extend inexpensive and useful assistance to the northern countries. This created conditions conducive to the broadening of close economic cooperation, if the plots of the enemies of Islamic Iran do not tarnish its political and economic relations with these countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran can—in its capacity as the most important connecting highway in the region—facilitate links between these countries and all parts of the world.

All in all, it appears that with the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad becoming operational, the economic face of the region will change considerably.

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Nepal: Prime Minister Expands Cabinet for 3d Time

*OW1705170596 Beijing XINHUA in English
1606 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, May 17 (XINHUA) — Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba today expanded his cabinet for the third time in a move described by local observers as an attempt to make his three-party ruling coalition more stable.

On the recommendation of Deuba, King Birendra today appointed four cabinet members, making the already grand-sized council of ministers into a 47-strong one, the ever biggest in Nepal's history.

The four additional cabinet members are Moti Prasad Pahadi [name as received] (minister of state for law and justice), Khobhari Raya [name as received] (assistant minister for agriculture), Anish Ansari [name as received] (assistant minister for supplies) and Bishnu Bikram Thapa [name as received] (assistant minister for commerce).

Observers here said that Deuba expanded his cabinet because he wants to secure majority support for his ruling coalition in the powerful lower house in case of any no-confidence vote against his government.

After the Nepali Congress (NC)-led government was formed last September, its cabinet had already been expanded twice.

### Nepal: Article Urges Emphasis on Economic Diplomacy

*BK2105142396 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 21 May 96*

[Article by Shanker Man Singh: "Economic Diplomacy for Nepal" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The economic instruments of diplomacy can be used for strategic or political aims to increase security or to get other countries to accept ideas on international relationships. Large and powerful countries are generally best placed to exercise economic diplomacy. Thus in the past, the Soviet Union broke off all economic relations with Yugoslavia and reduced trade with China when these two countries were seen to challenge Soviet leadership. It can also be argued that the Soviet Union had used economic levers to help control its COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) partners in Eastern Europe.

Now the economic and political scenario has changed. You have to cooperate and compete whether it is for joint ventures, management or for private capital. You have to create avenues for investments for your entrepreneurs.

Although prosperity is an important universal aim of economic diplomacy, there is no universally agreed means of achieving it. A multitude of methods may be used, according to the ideas, circumstances, and expectations of those who control a country's diplomacy. Thus one type of economic diplomacy suits a country with a market economy, while another type suits a country with a directive economy. (The term directive economy is used to denote the economies of countries defined in UN statistics as state trading countries.) One set of measures will be adopted by a country with a payments surplus and another by a country with deficit. Producing countries and consuming countries react differently to shortage or surpluses or food, energy, or raw materials.With the change of circumstances, policies change, sometimes rapidly.

The result is a bewildering diversity in the actions of economic diplomacy. Smaller countries can also use economic instruments for political ends. Nepal needs to reorient the direction of its foreign policy in the changed context of international relations and national priorities with special emphasis on economic diplomacy. In an exhaustive report, the 15 member high level task force committee formed by the government to recommend ways to revitalise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has portrayed a very gloomy picture of the current state of affairs.

In order to strengthen the foreign ministry's role in economic diplomacy, the Task Force recommended the establishment of a new Economic Relations and Coordination Division (ERDC). Besides, to facilitate a more systematic interaction between ERDC and sectoral ministries, an International Relations Desk in each ministry has been recommended for co-ordination with the foreign ministry. The ERDC would have five coordination committee namely: water resources, conference and aid, regional and sub-regional co-operation, least developed and landlocked countries, employment, investment, trade and tourism.

The Task Force has also recommended that six posts of economic counsellor in addition to the existing one in New Delhi should be opened in missions which are already centres of our economic activity. These countries are: the United States, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom and Thailand.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should recruit and train economic officers possessing relevant commercial backgrounds and assign them to specific posts abroad to take responsibilities for trade promotion.

The success of an Economic Officer will depend largely on his skills in handling communications. He must communicate directly with the foreign ministry. In Nepal Administrative Staff College, the subject of investment promotion should be given top-most priority.

The present budget states that Royal Nepalese embassies, missions and consulates will be mobilised to publicise Nepal and Nepalese products in the international arena in order to provide maximum information on Nepal's natural beauty, and unique cultural heritages, and to ensure a market for Nepalese products. Economic diplomacy must be conducted in keeping with the national interest as also for the purpose of mobilizing foreign aid, attracting foreign investment and promoting Nepal's international trade and tourism.

## Pakistan

### Pakistan: PPP Protests Presidential Election in Azad Kashmir

*BK2105142196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 21 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A big procession was taken out in Muzaffarabad today to protest against the presidential election in Azad Kashmir to be held tomorrow. The processionists, chanting antigovernment slogans, demanded stoppage of the elections forthwith. The procession was led by: chief of PPP [Pakistan People's Party], Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmud; former President Sahabzada Ishaq Zafar; and ex-Prime Minister Mumtaz

Hussain Rathore. Despite tight security, the procession succeeded in reaching the High Court premises.

Meanwhile, Sardar Sikander Hayat filed his nomination paper in Muzaffarabad today to recontest the office of AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] president.

### Pakistan: Indian Army Using Militia for Atrocities in Kashmir

*BK2205023796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 21 May 96*

[Commentary by Mir Abdul Aziz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the last one year militant groups sponsored by the Indian Army and the paramilitary organization, Rashtriya Rifles, have been making the lives of the people of Kashmir miserable. These armed bands are involved in plunder, extortion of money at gunpoint, and last but not least kidnapping of political leaders and human rights activists, whom they ultimately kill while in custody. These individuals, who are rightly called the team of the Indian Armed Forces, were responsible for the recent murder of Jalil Andrabi, the chief of the Jurist Commission of Kashmir, and almost at the same time for the attack on a house in the vicinity of Hazratbal shrine in which Shabbir Siddiqui and 20 companions were almost roasted alive. The factual position is that these Indian sponsored militants were keen to dislodge the Muslims from the shrine at Hazratbal and themselves take the possession of the shrine, which actions the Shabbir Siddiqui group defended with their very blood.

Reports from Srinagar and Jammu confirmed the fact that attacks on the residences of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders and on their headquarters at Rajbagh, Srinagar, were organized by these groups which is enjoying the patronage of the Rashtriya Rifles. The police are under directions not to register cases against these groups which is led by a former (?boy singer). The police, is therefore, helpless before the members of the group. Indian security forces have earned nothing but a bad name for their crackdowns and the atrocities on the people of Kashmir. Now, they want to perpetrate the excesses on the Kashmiris in the garb of counter insurgents and when lots of blood is spilled, the Indian security forces easily shift the responsibility to the shoulders of the so-called groups in the rank and file of the freedom fighters. But, people know that the wire is being pulled by the Indian intelligence agencies and by the paramilitary organization of the Rashtriya Rifles.

Recently, when the Congress-I candidate in the Anantnag-Islamabad was addressing a small meeting a bomb blast took place nearby. The Congress-I blamed a group of counter insurgents for this and threatened to boycott the elections if the Indian security forces did not withdraw the counter insurgents from the field of action and from the elections. It may be noted that these agents of the security forces of India have also put up candidates for the Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir by the name of Awami League, which the people of Kashmir call the Army League.

Just a couple of days ago, it was reported by AFP from Washington that the Human Rights Watch Asia has blamed the Indian security forces for sponsoring the militia groups whose job it is to terrorize the freedom fighters and indulge in grave human rights abuses. A 49-page report has been published and it has been released to news organizations with documents about the renegades who are in pay of the secret Indian agencies and dance to the tune of the Indian troops in the occupied state. The Human Rights Watch Asia has called upon India to disarm such sponsored groups which are not regulated by any law and which are known as militias. They have been given a free hand by Indian forces with the only purpose to eliminate leaders and rank and file of the freedom fighters who want the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us hope India abides by this sound advice of the human rights organization.

### Pakistan: Nawaz Cancels Meeting With MQM Leaders

*BK2205101796 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 May 96 p 16*

[Report by Wahab Kazimi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — During the current week, the MQM(A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement (Altaf)] gained prominence and the party which has been labelled as a terrorist group has become very important. Both the Opposition and the government are consulting the MQM members and offering them resolve their outstanding issues. Mian Nawaz Sharif has openly said that the PML(N) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement (Nawaz)] fully agrees and appreciates the viewpoint of MQM on Karachi peace.

He endorsed the accusations of extra judicial killings by police and said that the MQM should be given real representation both in the Sindh Assembly as well as in the Local Bodies.

In a surprise move the Central Government has asked N.D. Khan to establish contacts with MQM leaders and bring them to the negotiating table.

The Governor Sindh, Kamaluddin Azfar on Monday met the local MPA's [Member of Provincial Assembly] and discussed their problems. Though he did not clearly promise to minimise their grievances but as a token of goodwill, he allowed the release of 15,000 hides and skins belonging to MQM which were confiscated by the local administration during Eidul Azha [Muslim festival].

The political observers commenting on these developments have said that MQM is not going to gain anything substantial and there would be hardly any consensus on Karachi peace. Government is determined to establish peace by force while MQM wants a political solution.

The PML(N) is in a dilemma as Nawaz wants to stop victimisation of MQM but at the same time he does not want to displease anti-MQM forces.

Nawaz Sharif was in Karachi on a one-day short trip last week. He had promised that he would meet the MQM representatives but at the last moment, he backed out under the pretext that he had urgent business at Lahore. Captain Haleem Siddiqui PML [Pakistan Muslim League] MNA said that Mian Sahib could meet the MQM any moment. Whatever, Haleem Siddiqui says the fact remains that PML-MQM meeting was canceled. It was frustrating for the MQM who are looking at the PML for a change. The government also is not in a mood to accommodate the MQM at any stage or anywhere. The waderas [peasants] in the Sindh Assembly are not ready to tolerate representatives from the middle class.

### Pakistan: Leghari Notes IMF Role in Economic Development

*BK2205102196 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 May 96 p 1*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — President Farooq Leghari has said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is playing an important role in the economic development of the country.

Talking to IMF Regional Director Andre Hovaguimian at Aiwan-e- Sadar Tuesday, the president said Pakistan was paying special attention on its human resource development and appreciated the financial assistance being provided by the fund to educational institutions in the private sector.

Leghari said "What we need is a national commitment and community participation to motivate our people, specially our women, to educate themselves for better social and economic justice."

He said Pakistan needs to invest more in the speedy development of non-traditional areas like computer software and information technology to provide jobs to our educated youth and to increase our foreign exchange.

Andre Hovaguirnian assured President Leghari of the continued assistance and interest of IMF in Pakistan, specially in the education and power sector.

Later, President Leghari met the delegation of North West Minorities University of China which called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Leghari appreciated the good work being done by the Muslim university and emphasised the need to spread the true message of Islam which enjoins upon Muslims to find peaceful solution of their problems by ending social and economic disorders in the world.

The president said: "China is a cradle of several civilizations while Pakistan was located at the cross roads of many important civilizations. The two countries should, therefore, have relations at all levels and could share their knowledge and experiences with each other in different disciplines."

Professor Ma Qi-Lin, thanked the president and the government of Pakistan for extending full cooperation and assistance to the exchange of visits of students and teachers between the International Islamic University Islamabad and the North West Minorities University of China.

Earlier, Sindh National Front Chief Mumtaz Bhutto met President Leghari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The 90-minute meeting focused on the political situation in Sindh and the Kalabagh dam. Mumtaz Bhutto expressed concern over the statements of Wapda minister and Punjab chief minister in favour of the dam. The president assured the MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] that no decision contrary to Sindh's interests would be taken in this regard.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Jiang Zemin has greeted President Farooq Leghari and the people of Pakistan on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In his message, President Zemin stated that Sino-Pakistan relations were time-tested and based on solid foundations. "These relations are the example of state relations among countries with different social systems, and are based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence." These ties, he added, have steadily grown during the last 46 years to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries and would grow further in future. President Zemin wished ever-lasting friendship between China and Pakistan.

## Pakistan: Najamuddin's Moscow Trip Fails To Make Way for Bhutto

*BK2205104296 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 May 96 p 12*

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The chances of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's long-awaited visit to Moscow did not brighten during the just-concluded trip of Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Sheikh to Russia.

Sheikh visited Moscow on May 16 and 17 on the invitation of his Russian counterpart, the first deputy foreign minister.

He held detailed talks with him as well as the deputy foreign minister for this region and the chairman of the foreign affairs committee of Duma [parliament].

"The visit was very good and successful," a senior official told THE NEWS Tuesday when asked about its outcome.

"The Afghan problem was one of the major items on the agenda discussed during the bilateral talks. However, the focus remained on bilateral issues." Officials had been saying during the past two years that Ms Bhutto's visit to Moscow was on the cards. But it did not take place primarily because of Russia's cold-shouldering the subject due to its close relations with India.

During the Foreign Secretary's visit to Moscow, the prime minister's prospective trip was least discussed because of the electoral process underway in Russia, Pakistan's keenness for it notwithstanding. This is why there is little likelihood that Sheikh's visit will be reciprocated by Russians immediately.

However, Ms Bhutto's visit to Moscow may be taken up by Russia seriously after things settle down in that country on the completion of the electoral process.

Sheikh's visit marked the high-level diplomatic contact between the two countries after a considerable time. However, observers feel that its timing was not perfect due to Russians' intense engagement with the elections.

## Pakistan: Efforts To Improve Russian Ties Viewed

*BK2105133096 Islamabad AL-AKHBAR in Urdu 21 May 96 p 3*

[Editorial: "Improving Pakistan-Russia Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shiekh, now visiting Russia, met with Igor Ivanov, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, to discuss bilateral relations and the regional situation. Both sides expressed the hope that these contacts will bring an improvement in Pakistan-Russia relations. According to reports from the Foreign Office, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be visiting Russia by the end of the year. We believe that the improvement in relations between Pakistan and Russia is an encouraging development in many respects.

In fact, our foreign policy has become stagnant. Our Foreign Ministry seems incapable of reshaping and revising foreign policy according to the changing international scene. Every Pakistani dislikes the increasing U.S. control over Pakistan's policies. We believe that Pakistan should adopt a more realistic foreign policy. The improvement in Pakistan-Russia relations is a good move in this regard.

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